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THE TIMES

No 61,724 — THURSDAY DECEMBER 29 1983 — 20p

Bradman record is beaten

Sunil Gavaskar, the Indian cricketer, overtook Donald Bradman's record of 29 Test centuries as he made 149 not out against West Indies in Madras yesterday during his 99th appearance for his country.
John Woodcock, page 16

Pan-Am threat to Concorde

Pan American World Airways has asked the US regulatory agency to suspend Concorde fares on the ground of unfair competition by British Airways and the British Government Page 3

German thaw

Relations between East and West Germany have never been better, with the former increasingly dependent on Bonn's financial largesse Page 5

New pleasures

New attractions such as highly mechanized pleasure parks kept up the number of sightseers in England in 1982, despite the fall in popularity of longer-established attractions, according to the English Tourist Board Page 3

Bignone charge

Former President Bignone of Argentina faces a second charge of involvement in disappearances during the "dirty war" conducted by the military regimes of the 1970s Page 5

Burton deal

Burton has bought the Harry Fenton chain of 93 menswear shops for £3.5m in a deal which took only three days to complete Page 13

Steel decisions

Two factors, both requiring renewed government commitment to the steel industry, will influence the British Steel Corporation's plans Page2

Blast kills six

Six people were killed in a propane gas explosion and fire in Buffalo, New York. Sixty others were injured Page 4

Ship silenced

A clampdown on comments was placed on a Russian liner after allegations that holidaymakers had been given a Christmas cruise they would wish to forget Page 2

Sports review

David Miller looks back on a year that saw India beat West Indies, Australia win the American's Cup and the first world athletics championships in Helsinki Page 17

US role in Lebanon put in doubt by bomb inquiry

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Pentagon report on the suicide bombing which killed 241 American troops in Beirut calls for an urgent review of the entire US military mission in Lebanon.

The lengthy report, published yesterday, will provide powerful ammunition for Congressional critics of America's presence in Lebanon. It goes far beyond merely apportioning blame for the disaster, and repeatedly raises broad questions about the military pursuit of US objectives in Beirut.

It says that America's decisions about Lebanon have to a great extent been "characterized by an emphasis on military options and the expansion of the US military role", even though the security of American troops has become more precarious "as progress towards a diplomatic solution slowed".

The report advocates "re-examination of alternative means of achieving US objectives in Lebanon, to include a comprehensive assessment of the military security options being developed by the chain of command, and a more vigorous and demanding approach to pursuing diplomatic alternatives".

It does not recommend specific alternatives. It does, however, propose the consideration of disciplinary action against US officers for permitting terrorists to crash a lorry laden wih explosives into a building filled with sleeping Marines on October 23.

But President Reagan said on Tuesday that, as Commander-in-Chief of the United States armed forces, he accepted full blame for the lack of security, and ruled out disciplinary action against commanders

This move appears to have been designed to ensure that he retains the political high ground in the debate over security measures in Lebanon. "We wanted to get the President out in front on this one", a White House official said.

The president's decision to preempt the possibility of formal punishment of military commanders is probably unprecendented. By making his statement before publication of the report he has ensured that no individual is likely to be court-martialled.

Although the decision is popular im military circles it is seen by some analysts as political interference with the military legal system. It is argued by some observers that it conflicts with the traditional principle that officers are responsible for the safety and well-being of their troops.

Legally, Mr Reagan's remarks do not preclude the instigation of court martial proceedings against individuals but such an exercise would be largely pointless since he has effectively said that he would issue a pardon.

Lesser punishments, such as reprimands or demotions, would technically still be possible but White House officials made clear yesterday that the President felt that no actions of any kind should be taken.

The Pentagon report, which runs to 160 pages, was prepared by a five-member panel headed by retired Admiral Robert Long. It followed the findings of a congressional inquiry last week which blamed the entire chain of military command for lax security.

The Long Report also blames the whole operational military chain of command, from the local battalion commander to the head of US forces in europe, General Bernard Rogers.

Missing Andropov still wields power in Kremlin

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov again missed an important political occasion yesterday when he failed to attend the opening day of the Supreme Soviet in the Kremlin. Reports circulating at the session said Mr Andropov was ill in hospital, although other reports say he is convalescing at a special Politburo sanatorium after a kidney operation.

On Monday and Tuesday Mr Andropov was absent from the the Central Committee plenum which precedes the Supreme Soviet and decides policy in advance. The 1500 member Supreme Soviet has no real power and rubber stamps party decisions.

But as head of state and party leader Mr Andropov would be expected to preside over the proceedings, which are televised. His absence yesterday, for which no explanation was given, had a greater impact on ordinary Russians than his failure to attend the closed Central Committee meeting, attributed to "temporary causes".

The four men promoted by Mr Androphy on Monday despite his absence – seen as proof of his continuing power and influence – all sat on the platform in the Great Hall of the Kremlin yesterday, with Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov taking his place as a full Politburo member alongside Mr Grigori Romanov, the former Leningrad party leader. Both are now considered possible successors to Mr Andropov.

In another move designed to show that Mr Andropov is in control and not about to step down,Tass announced that the Soviet leader had been nominated to stand as a deputy to the Supreme Soviet in the elections next March.

There is nonetheless widespread concern over the fact that although Mr Andropov is still laying down economic guidelines and appointing new officials, he has not been seen since the middle of August.

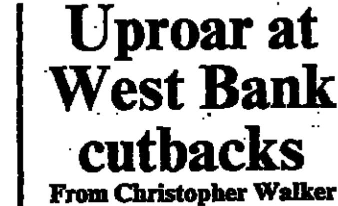
In his speech on Monday, which was read for him, Mr Andropov made no reference to foreign policy even though Moscow faces an East West crisis over arms control and is due to take a stand at the Stockholm disarmament conference next month. Against expectations there were no foreign policy speeches at yesterday's Kremlin meeting, although foreign policy was debated later in closed session.

In the only public reference to Foreign Affairs, Mr Vasily Garbuzov, the Finance Minister, said Soviet defences would be strengthened because of Nato's "extreme reckless" missile deployments in Europe.

Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister, sat in Mr Andropov's place on the platform, with Mr Konstant in Chernenko next to him. Mr Chernenko is the Kremlim number two by seniority, and opposed Mr Andropov for the leadership last year. Later Mr Chernenko left and Mr Tikhonov moved along, leaving Mr Andropov's seat symbolically vacant.

Mr Andropov has issued monthly statements on arms control during his absence, and speakers yesterday repeatedly invoked his name and achievements.

Setting the scene, page 4
Leading article, page 11



Uproar at West Bank cutbacks

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem

A political controversy has broken out in Israel over reports that the Finance Minister, Mr Yigal Cohen-Orgad, has drawn up proposals for a virtual freeze on new settlements in the West Bank, as part of an economic austerity programme.

The disclosure, first broadcast by Israel Radio, has implications both for domestic politics and for the Middle East peace process, which is deadlocked. West Bank settlements are seen as one of the obstacles

Mr Cohen-Orgad's proposals are due to be presented to an emergency meeting of the Cabinet tomorrow, to consider a sweeping programme of cuts designed to reduce the balance of payments deficit by $1,000m (£715m).

Treasury sources were quoted as saying that most new settlements planned for the West Bank would be affected by the freeze, which is designed to last at least 12 months.

Within hours of the broadcast Mr Yuval Ne'eman, leader of the right-wing Techiya Party, announced that it would leave the Government if any settlement freeze was introduced.

Techiya's Knesset support is vital to the ruling coalition's viability, and its members demanded an immediate meeting with Mr Cohen-Orgad. But the minister – himself a West Bank settler – was called instead for talks with Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister.

The report coincided with the publication of an opinion poll showing that 48.5 per cent of those questioned were against new West Bank settlements, and only 36.9 per cent in favour, compared with 58.3 per cent in favour in October, 1981, and only 21.9 per cent opposed.

Bomb widow: Mrs Maureen Dodd at Chelsea police station yesterday. (Photograph: John Voos)

Blast victim's widow speaks of dangers facing police

The widow of Inspector Stephen Dodd, the Harrods bomb victim, spoke yesterday of the television newsflash that brought her face-to-face with the dangers facing her husband.

Mrs Maureen Dodd, aged 37, a former policewoman said she could never forgive the IRA bombers who shattered her Christmas and hopes for the future. But she could "appreciate" the Irish problem because of experiences with her Irish family in Belfast.

Mr Dodd, aged 34, died on Christmas Eve in the intensive care unit of the Central Middlesex Hospital in London, a week after suffering severe head injuries while investigating the Harrods bomb.

Mrs Dodd disclosed that she and her husband had been separated for a year after "drifting apart" but planned to spend Christmas together with their three young children with hopes of a reconciliation. "He phoned me the day before the bombing to say he would take the children and get the Christmas tree and do the decorations", she said.

"The children heard about the bombing on the television. I turned round to my little one and said to her: 'You can forget Daddy for this afternoon, because He is going to be busy', just not dreaming what had really happened."

While Anthony, aged 11, Melanie, aged 9, and Susan aged 7, continued to play, Mrs Dodd did not become unduly worried until later news flashes said that several had been killed and others injured.

When Mrs Dodd heard the later news she telephoned Chelsea police where her husband was based, and then went straight to the station.

Mrs Dodd, who left the police when she married in 1970, said yesterday at Chelsea police station: "Truly, I can't understand anybody who can do that. Not just to injure policemen, because that bomb could have injured hundreds more people than it did.

There is no word to describe the person who did this. But having said that, I do appreciate there is an Irish problem, and until that problem is settled these things are going to happen - maybe not in England, but they are happening in Ireland every day.

My family is Irish, living in Belfast. When I was 18 I was in Ireland visiting them. I saw the Rev Ian Paisley raising the rabble against the Catholics. I have never seen anything so frightening in my life. We were

Continued on back page, col 1

Women invade air base control

By Rodney Cowton Defence Correspondent

Greenham Common peace women protesting against cruise missiles achieved one of their most startling invasions of the US air base in Berkshire when they spent three hours in the air traffic control tower on Tuesday evening.

According to the account of the three women who were arrested in the control tower they were detected only when they flashed lights on and off to draw attention to their presence. They have been charged with criminal damage and were released on bail to appear before Newbury magistrates on January 26.

The first 16 of the missiles and their nuclear warheads arrived at Greenham last month, and "initial operating capability" is formally due to be achieved by Saturday night. It is likely that the missiles are already capable of operation, though the Ministry of Defence would not confirm this last night.

The control tower, although symbolically important as a nerve centre for controlling the movement of aircraft, is some distance from the cruise bunkers. The Ministry which said it was "obviously concerned" at the breach of security, put the distance from the bunkers at about three-quarters of a mile, while one of the women who entered the tower, Rebecca Johnson, estimated the distance as "up to half a mile".

She said that in the tower they did not identify anything they could clearly see was directly related to the missiles, but there was a great deal of communications and computer equipment which related to the running of the base and air traffic going in and out.

She said the three women had discussed walking across the base to the missile bunkers, but had decided not to. They had hidden bolt cutters on the base which they could have used to cut the wire round the bunkers.

Thames Valley police gave the names of the two women arrested with Miss Johnson as Sue Hornagold and Elizabeth Amy Galst, an American. All three gave their address as the Greenham women's peace camp.

Miss Johnson, aged 29, told *The Times* that they had entered the control tower at about 5pm on Tuesday and had been arrested at 7.55.

They had crossed two fences and some rolls of barbed or razor wire. They had climbed some scaffolding and a fire escape on the tower, and had made a small hole in a window to release a catch and enter the tower. At the time the control tower was unoccupied.

if they wished they could have done considerable dam-

Continued on page 2, col 5

Eddie Waring 'stable but very ill' in hospital

Mr Eddie Waring, aged 73, the former BBC television rugby league commentator, was said to be "very ill but stable" in hospital yesterday after being admitted shortly before Christmas.

Mrs Mary Waring, his wife, said the family had been overwhelmed by goodwill messages to their home in Old Lane, Bramhope, near Leeds.

Mr Waring, whose Yorkshire accent and distinctive style is familiar to millions of television viewers, is being treated in an acute admissions ward at High Royds Hospital, Menston.

Maze escapers linked to Tidey's kidnap

Irish police have established that the IRA gang behind the kidnapping of Mr Don Tidey, a Dublin businessman, included men who escaped in a break-out from the Maze prison in Belfast last September.

Three of the kidnap group are known to have been among the 38 prisoners who got out of the Maze, killing a warder on the way.

But detectives indicated last night that they knew the identities of at least four of the gang that abducted Mr Tidey on November 24 in an attempt to extract a £5m ransom from his employers. All four are understood to be from Northern Ireland.

But detectives believe some members of the group of up to eight men were based in the south. Two men, one from co Kerry and the other from co Leitrim, have been charged with falsely imprisoning Mr Tidey.

Mr Tidey, aged 49, a widower and father of three, was rescued unharmed in co Leitrim near the border with Northern Ireland after three weeks in captivity. But in gun battles during his release, two members of the Irish security forces were shot dead.

Doctor in Down's case dies

By Michael Horsnell

Dr Leonard Arthur, the paediatrician acquitted of the attempted murder of a baby with Down's Syndrome in 1981, died on Christmas Day after a long illness, it was disclosed yesterday.

Dr Arthur, aged 57, who left a widow and six children, was cleared at Leicester crown court after allegations made against him by the anti-abortion group, LIFE.

Mr John Harding, deputy chief administrator for the Derbyshire area health authority, which employed him said: "Dr Arthur's death will be a tremendous loss to the health service in this region."

Dr Arthur was originally charged with the murder of three-day-old John Pearson at Derby City Hospital but, after two days of legal submissions in the absence of a jury, the charge was changed to one of attempted murder. It was alleged that he prescribed a drug which suppressed appetite and impaired breathing.

Anti-terror police hold man

By Stewart Tendler Crime Reporter

Detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad were questioning a London man last night about possible connexions with French terrorists, after the discovery of explosives in his home.

The man, understood to be held at Paddington Green police station, was arrested at 1.15am yesterday in a police raid in the Finsbury Park area of north London. After the raid a Scotland Yard spokesman said that explosives, grenades, ammunition and a firearm had been found.

The man is not being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act nor is the arrest connected in any way with the Harrods bombing. The police are investigating possible links with a French terrorist group, although the man being held is British.

In the past year there have been a number of bombings in Paris attributed to Action Directe, an extreme left-wing group, and organizations such as the Revolutionary Caribbean Alliance. A bombing in Marseilles in October was thought to have been the work of a right-wing body with the title of the Charles Martel group.

The French authorities have also been struggling with Corsican organizations demanding independence and Basque groups operating from French territory. In recent months attacks on French troops in Beirut have led to tighter security for M Francois Mitterrand, the French President.

There has been considerable activity by anti-terrorist squad officers and Special Branch detectives in London since the Harrods bombing, and yesterday's raid may have been a by-product of these investigations.

Lean times ahead for food-loving MPs

*Let me have men about me
that are fat;
Sleek-headed men and such
as sleep o'nights.
Yond Cassius has a lean
and hungry look;
He thinks too much: such
men are dangerous.*

By Philip Webster

Clearly Julius Caesar's concerns about the menace of thin men is not shared by the people responsible for feeding Britain's MPs.

The House of Commons catering committee aims to slim down our public representatives and make them healthier and fitter. Menus in the dining rooms and cafeterias for MPs, visitors and staff at Westminster are likely to be revised to give more emphasis to vegetarian foods, salads and fruit and less to stodgy puddings.

The committee chairman, Mr Charles Irving, Conservative MP for Cheltenham, is already achieving a quiet catering revolution, turning a big loss in 1979 into profits during the past three years. A £200,000 surplus for the current year is expected to be announced soon.

Mr Irving made the Commons souvenir shop highly profitable and improved the dining surroundings by having flowers put on the tables and he hopes a pianist will be recruited for the Harcourt Room, one of the main dining rooms.

He said yesterday that MPs should be given the chance to eat more carefully. "We are virtually prisoners here when the Commons is sitting", he said. "We will try to give more emphasis to helathier eating. Instead of suet puddings with syrup poured all over them we would like to make the meals lighter."

Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, who weighs 19 stone, said: "It's a very good idea. A lot of us are getting quite portly. Mr Irving tells me I am one of his best customers."





Unions pay £30,000 to boost Kinnock image on his political travels

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The unions are to pay £30,000 to finance the political travels of Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, and research work for Shadow Cabinet members.

The cash is being made available through Trade Union for Labour Victory, the umbrella body set up by the labout movement to channel funds to the party.

Most of the money will go towards funding research staff working for Opposition front bench spokesmen, but several thousand pounds are reserved for national and international trips by Mr Kinnock to build up his image as the alternative Prime Minister. He is to visit the United States and the Soviet Union next spring.

Union leaders agreed to donate the cash from TULV funds after an approach from the party leader, whose state financial support has been reduced in the wake of Labour's disastrous performance at the polls last June.

State "Short money" for the Opposition, so called after the former Labour deputy leader Mr Edward Short (now Lord Glenamara), who devised the formula, is calculated on popular votes cast at the general election. Labour's reduced share is reflectedin a shortfall on last year's grant.

Faced with a reduction of £4,000, to £317,000, in the "Short money" grade at a time when Labour is expanding its parliamentary support team, Mr Kinnock approached TULV for funds to "top up" the government subvention.

The unions, whose cash-gathering operation is threatened by left and right-wing breakaways, agreed to make up the bulk of the shortfall as part of a continuing support programme for the Labour Party.

TULV and party officials were reluctant yesterday to comment publicly on he increasing scale of support for the parliamentary arm of the party at a time when Labour's headquarters in Walworth Road, south London, is in a financial crisis.

Mr James Mortimer, general secretary of the Labour Party, has told the staff that between 20 and 60 job losses are required to put the party on to an even keel.

Labour's operational activities are just "in the black", but the party's long-standing overdraft exceeds £400,000 and is still climbing. Trade union donors insist that money left in the general election campaign fund must not be transferred to pay off the party's long-term debts.

Party insiders are privately predicting that TULV wracked by the defection of the right-wing engineering workers and now under attack by a breakaway move from the National Union of Mineworkers disclosed in yesterday's *Times* will be wound up over the next year.

New leader brings more votes

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Firm evidence of the recovery of the Labour Party under the leadership of Mr Neil Kinnock has been disclosed in a survey by the *New Statesman* of the results of local council by-elections held since he took over from Mr Michael Foot on October 2.

The sharp rise in the party's electral popularity which occured immediately after his election at Brighton has been sustained, with Labour winning more votes than the Conservatives over the past three months.

In 79 local contests involving the three main parties, Labour candidates have attracted 55,997 votes, or 33.7 per cent, and Conservative candidates 54,907 or 33.1 per cent. The figures indicate that Labour has swiftly recovered from a drop in support early in December during the mass picketing at Warrington, Cheshire in the National Graphical Association dispute with Mr Eddie Shah's Messenger group of newspapers.

The survey comes as an important boost to Mr Kinnock as he prepares to rally his party for the twin challenge of next year's local and European Parliament elections.

	Council Seats defended	Seats lost	Seats gained
C	37	8	7
Lab	33	7	6
Lib	11	3	10
SDP	2	2	3
Others	9	7	1

Recent opinion polls have shown a steady move towards Labour but Mr Kinnock and his colleagues will be more impressed by the survey, which is to appear in this week's *New Statesman*, because it shows that people have been prepared to translate their liking for the new team into votes.

The survey is a factor that will allow Mr Kinnock and his party to enter the new year with more optimism than seemed likely four months ago.

Findings, page 8

The Mikhail Kalanin at Tilbury yesterday with (bottom left to right) Karpova Lazisa, Helga Bezvukova and Margarite Vovobjeva, ship's stewardesses, and two disgruntled passengers from Norwich who declined to be named (Photographs: Chris Harris)

Security clampdown on Russian liner

By Rupert Morris

Russian seamen yesterday responded with a brief "No visitors" to anyone seeking information from the 120 passengers or crew of the Mikhail Kalinin, 4,871 tons, recently docked at Tilbury, in Essex.

A security blanket had been dropped over the Mikhail Kalinin after allegations that the Russian cruise company, CTC, had given British holidaymakers the sort of Christmas that they would wish to forget.

More than seventy Britons who had embarked for a Christmas tour of the Mediterranean, stopping at Zeebrugge, Lisbon, Gibraltar, Malaga, Tangier and Corunna, were said to have ended up swaying to and fro across the Channel, stopping only briefly at Zeebrugge and St Malo, denied access to a telephone and kept in constant ignorance of their whereabouts.

Yesterday, the ship's master refused to speak to journalists, and passengers were protected by a policeman at the Tilbury dockside. But several British voices told reporters not to believe yesterday's report in the *Daily Mail*, which was based on the views of one disgruntled passenger.

Among those who managed to slip through the security net was Mrs Millicent Newman, from Barnes, south-west London, who was treated on board for cuts and bruises after the porthole of her cabin blew in; she had been moved from another cabin when it flooded.

"I am very dissatisfied with the whole thing", Mrs Newman said. "They should have warned us about the weather when we booked. They have offered us 50 per cent off another cruise, but I cannot afford it."

Mrs Gwenda Martens, from Bournemouth, said: "The weather got bad and we evidently anchored off Torbay. We all thought we were off the coast of France. Then they said we were going to Cherbourg or Le Havre. It ended up that we went to St Malo, where we spent Christmas Day.

Mr Geoffrey Benson, deputy general manager of CTC, said that the Kalinin had been forced to shelter off Torbay and St Malo because of storms in the Channel. A plan to divert the ship to the Canary Islands was abandoned because of hurricanes

He said that passengers had been allowed to use the ship's radio telephone, except in port.

Mr Eric Phippin, a director of the company, said that it was the first time in eight years that the Christmas cruise had not been able to reach its destination and he sympathized with disappointed passengers. He said that applications for refunds would be treated on their merits.

Londoners want to keep GLC, poll says

By Richard Dowden

Well over twice as many Londoners are against the Government's plan to abolish the Greater London Council as are for it, according to an opinion poll released yesterday.

The Harris Research Centre found that 59 per cent of those questioned said they dissapproved of the Government's decision to abolish the GLC, while only 22 per cent said they supported it; 31 per cent of Conservative voters said they dissapproved of the plans.

The survey was carried out this month among a representative quota sample of 1,041 people in the Greater London area.

It suggests that Londoners want a single representative body responsible for the capital's services. More than three quarters of those questioned said it was important, and more than half said it was very important.

The survey has little comfort for the Government, which intends to replace the GLC with more powerful boroughs and several joint boards to run some services. Of Conservative voters 65 per cent said they thought it important that the city had an elected body responsible for its services and 30 per cent said they thought the Government had handled the issue badly.

Attitudes over the issue seem to be hardening. More people disapprove of abolition now than in October, when a MORI poll was conducted.

Of those who supported abolition in the Harris poll, 38 per cent said they felt more strongly about the issue now than earlier in the year, and 39 per cent of those who disapproved of abolition said they felt more strongly now.

There appeared to be little difference in attitude between those who lived in inner London or outer London areas.

Reagan should meet Andropov, Owen says

Py Our Political Reporter

Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader and former Labour Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that there would be "great merit" in a summit meeting between President Andropov and President Reagan.

Although Mr Andropov was clearly not well enough at present, and there was no advantage for Mr Reagan in meeting a deputy, there should be an eventual summit to discuss questions of European security, the Middle East and nuclear force reductions.

Dr Owen said that it was "potentially very dangerous" that Mr Andropov was not fit enough to undertake "personal diplomacy". There was great merit in a direct confrontation, with Mr Reagan having to match his public rhetoric face-to-face with Mr Andropov, and Mr Andropov doing likewise.

On past exprience when leaders had met in this way, they had discussed more common ground than they expected.

Countess fined

Lady Lichfield, the wife of Lord Lichfield, the photographer, was fined £20 with £10 costs by Camberwell magistrates in south London yesterday for failing to pay a parking ticket.

Fate of Ravenscraig hinges on government and EEC pledges

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Two key factors will influence the new plan for steel being drawn up by the British Steel Corporation after the collapse of talks with United States Steel – and both will require a renewed government commitment.

Production at the threatened Ravenscraig works, near Glasgow, and throughout British Steel, is protected by a statement made in December, last year, by Mr Patrick Jenkin, then Secretary of State for Industry.

The Government instructed British Steel to keep open the five integrated works for three years: Port Talbot, Llanwern, Scunthorpe, Ravenscraig, and Teesside.

There is little indication that the Government will change its mind.

Significantly, the corporation's three wide-strip mills are located at Port Talbot, Llanwern, and Ravenscraig, the last being the most vulnerable because of its greater distance from the main markets.

The second factor is that under the European Commission's crisis plan to restructure the steel industry, member governments are committed to phasing out all state aid by the end of 1985.

That is regarded as optimistic by some European steel leaders, but the British Government regards abolition of aid as vital to the privatization of British Steel, which it still expects to break even by March, 1985.

The Scottish lobby, in which Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, has played a big role, has argued for the retention of Ravenscraig as an integrated works on the ground of job implications, but also because further deterioration of Scotland's manufacturing base would threaten the country's cohesion.

The big question now relates not so much to the strip mills, one of which British Steel wanted to close even if the deal with US Steel was concluded, but to overall manned steel-making capacity, which stands at 14.4 million tonnes.

Lack of agreement with the Americans has returned British Steel to the position of a year ago when Mr Jenkin made his statement and made more urgent the need to reach long-term decisions on the basic steel industry's size.

● Warnings over Ravenscraig's future were dismised by local politicians and union leaders yesterday.

Relief at the collapse of the deal has, however, been tempered by resentment among the 4,000 workers at British Steel's seeming failure to recognize the plant's value. The Labour MP for Motherwell South, which includes Ravenscraig, Dr Jeremy Bray, accused senior management of being in the grip of chronic defeatism.

He said that British Steel's insistence that Britain could sustain only two of its three intergrated steel works had no basis in reality.

Ravenscraig's convener, Mr Tommy Brennan, said yesterday: "We do not have any fears for the future now".

Appeal for witness of bomb hoax

An appeal was made in Manchester Magistrates' Court yesterday for a witness who allegedly saw a hoax bomb being left at Abbeyfields old people's home, earlier this month shortly before it was opened by the Princess of Wales, in Withington, Manchester.

Mr Stuart Taylor, of Chatham Court, and Mrs Susan Wood, of Heyscroft Road, both Withington, were remanded on bail until January 18, having denied the offence.

Jeremy Seymour-Eyles, of Hartington Road, Twickenham, was sent to a detention centre for three months by Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court yesterday, after he admitted making a hoax call.

Police assess clues after bombing reconstruction

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Detectives are still assessing the public response to the weekend reconstruction of the Harrods bombing in London but no one has yet pinpointed when the bomber's car was parked or produced a description of its driver.

The Austin 1300 GT is probably the best clue Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad has to the Provisional IRA active service unit now held responsible for a total of four bombs in two and a half weeks. Police fear the unit will strike again, possibly at a military or political target.

As the heavy police presence on central London's streets continued yesterday the detective squad formed to investigate the Harrods bombing continued to examine information from the public and possible witnesses.

One theory is that the Austin was parked in a bay kept by another car parked earlier. The Austin may also have been driven around until a bay a was found or even left very early in the morning.

The car was parked the wrong way in the one-way section of Hans Crescent and that could have been done much more easily when there was little traffic.

If that theory is right the bombers fed the meter during the morning and then unlocked the car to set the timing device on the bomb shortly after midday.

Yesterday Scotland Yard announced that the last of the four men held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act a week ago during investigations into the bombing had been released. Mr Gerry Small, convicted for conspiracy to cause explosions in Birmingham in 1975, was served with an exclusion order, under which he was returned to Belfast.

Police Constable John Gordon, aged 30, the dog handler who lost a leg in the Harrods blast, remained in a critical but stable condition in Westminster Hospital yesterday.

Two other policemen are also still in hospital. Sergeant Andrew Melham was reported to have had a restless night at St Thomas's but was said to be progressing well. Sergeant Christopher Stanger was described as fairly comfortable in Westminster Hospital.

● More than 300 people, including 100 uniformed police officers, packed a Roman Catholic church yesterday for a memorial Mass for Police Sergeant Noel Lane, aged 28, who was killed in the blast.

The priest who preached the sermon was an Irishman, Father Barry Wymes, whose father was the police commissioner in the Irish Republic when the present troubles first flared up in the late 1960s.

In his sermon Father Wymes attacked the terrorists who murdered six people and injured 90.

The service was at St Joseph's Church, Redhill, Surrey, where Sergeant Lane worshipped.

Brittan fails to keep his promise on prisoners

By David Cross

The number of remand prisoners in police cells has fallen to its lowest level for some months, but Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, has been unable to honour his pledge to end the practice by the end of the year.

Mr Brittan made his promise at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool in October after complaints from groups including the Law Society, at the unusually large number of prisoners held in unsuitable police cells beause of overcrowding at remand prisons in London. The total reached more than 600 at the end of November after running at more than 400 a day for most of the year.

But the Prison Department said yesterday that the total had fallen to 134 as more prison places for remand prisoners had become available.

One important factor is that Wormwood Scrubs admitted prisoners on holding charges, for the first time this month.

More remand places have also become available at Pentonville, which no longer takes people held on immigration charges. These now go to Ashford prison, Kent.

The Home Office expects further improvements when renovations are completed at Brixton and Wormwood Scrubs next year.

An extra 250 cells will be provided for a maximum of 340 prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs when a revamped wing is opened in April

At Brixton, a further 220 cells which can hold 300 prisoners will become available in July and November.




Mr Brittan: Bowed to pressure

Waldorf officer on duty

By Our Crime Reporter

One of the detectives involved in the Steven Waldorf shooting has returned to his normal duties as a surveillance specialist after the Police Complaints Board's deision last week not to take disciplinary action.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that Det Constable John Jardine, aged 38, rejoined its C11 section just before Christmas. He was suspended shortly after Mr Waldorf, a freelance film editor, was shot in mistake for the wanted gunman, David Martin, during a police operation last January.

Earlier in the week, the Yard announced that Police Constable Peter Finch, also suspended after the shooting, had returned to police duties but had been moved from detective to uniformed work.

In October PC Finch and Constable Jardine were acquitted by a jury of attempting to murder Mr Waldorf.

Letters, page 11

Women invade Greenham control tower

Continued from page 1

age. "We probably could have spent the night there.

She said that for a time they had gone on the roof and flapped a banner marked "peace on earth", which they later hung in a window. They also marked various documents "no cruise" and "Greenham women are everywhere".

They had decided to give themselves up when an American soldier climbed to the top of the tower, while they were inside, and began observing the women's camp through binoculars. They began switching lights on and off to attract attention, and the soldier responded in three or four minutes.

She said the soldier got them out of the building. Outside there was more American soldiers, police dogs and Ministry of Defence police.

● Thirty-two peace protesters, including three Dominican friars, were arrested during a demonstration yesterday at the US nuclear bomber base at Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire (the Press Association reports).

Police said last night that 10 people had been released without charge. The other 22 were still being interviewed. The Prior of Blackfriars, Oxford, confirmed that three of his order had been detained.

The demonstration was by about 200 members of Christian CND. Some of the protesters broke through the perimeter fence. The friars, in white habits, and two women, chained themselves to a cross and prayed for 30 minutes on the concrete apron at the end of the main runway.

More companies 'top up' £25 YTS payment

An increasing number of young people on the new Youth Training Scheme (YTS) are receiving more than the £25 allowance, according to the first survey of the YTS in practice, published today by the Labour Research Department in its journal, *Bargaining Report*.

Although only one industry, furniture manufacturing, is known to have guaranteed "top-up", unions have negotiated more with some companies and local authorities.

For example, Massey Ferguson at Coventry has agreed to pay the rate for the job – £74.60 a week at 16 – to its trainees, while those in manual grades working for Cleveland Council enjoy similar treatment with a £43.48 rate.

Alveston Kitchens, Hackney Council, the Gregg Organization, Leicestershire Council, Scotnid Co-op, and Oxford Moat House have also agreed to top up YTS payments.

Unions are also improving the lot of many YTS workers by preventing the job substitution that occurred under the Youth Opportunities Programme, and in fringe benefits.

The survey shows that unions are successfully fighting attempts to depress the pay levels of young people generally.

Under-18s' overall earnings continue to fall in proportion to adults' earnings, but young workers covered by collective agreements are more likely to maintain their pay relativities.

In an analysis of 245 agreements where unions negotiated a youth rate, the same percentage rise for youth as for adult pay was agreed in 70 per cent of cases.

Call for release of public records after 10 years

By Peter Hennessy

If Sir Douglas Wass, former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury and the 1983 Reith lecturer, had his way, journalists would be arriving at the Public Record Office today to unlock the secrets of Mr Edward Heath's 1973 winter crisis rather than Sir Winston Churchill's attempt to end the cold war on 1953.

Sir Douglas, who was closely involved in the 1973 crisis as an adviser on counter-inflation policy, called yesterday for the Government to review the 30-year rule establised by the Public Records Act, 1967.

"The time is now overdue when we should look again at this interval. It is high time we looked at the 30-year rule. There are no grounds for sticking at 30", he said.

Sir Douglas declined to put a precise period on official confidentiality. But his remarks implied that he had a 10-year rule in mind for all but sensitive foreign, defence, security and intelligence material.

His main reason for lopping two decades off the 30-year rule is to enable historians to pursue archival research while participants in the events described are still alive and able to be interviewed while their memories are relatively fresh.

Although journalists will begin to fillet the file in the Public Record Office at Kew, West London today, the secrets of 1953 will not be released to the public until Sunday, when they will be broadcast on radio and television, or Monday, when newspapers will carry accounts of the inside story of Coronation year.

New life for BL Marina

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The BL Austin Rover subsidiary is joining forces with a Dubai bank and a Pakistan engineering company to establish Pakistan's first private-sector car factory.

The deal is worth £20m to Austin Rover in its early stages, when complete Ital saloons will be shipped from Longbridge. They will gradually be replaced by Itals in "kit" form

The final stage calls for all Ital production machinery to be removed from Longbridge and reassembled at a new factory in Lahore. The Ital began life 12 years ago as the Marina, and is coming to the end of its life in Britain.

It was introduced as a cheap, easy to build competitor for Ford's successful Cortina.

Austin Rover will have an as yet undisclosed share in a new Pakistan company in which its partners will be Associated Agencies, a Lahore private – sector engineering group, and Al Ghurair enterprises, a Dubai bank.

Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 28; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pts 150; Cyprus 550 mils; Denmark Dkr 8.50; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.25; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 38; Madeira Esc 120; Morocco Dir 8.00; Norway Kr 7.50; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore $5.50; Spain Pes 150; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.50; Yugoslavia Din 100

Pan-Am demands end to 'unfair' Concorde competition

By Tony Samstag

Pan American World Airways has accused the Government and British Airways of unfair competition in its Concorde fare structure and has asked the American authorities to suspend those fares.

British Airways denied yesterday that its Concorde flights on the Atlantic route were unfairly subsidized. It added: "Concordes are making a useful contribution to profits. The fares are certainly not below costs."

Pan-Am's complaint, filed on Tuesday with the US Civil Aeronautical Board, alleges that British Airways has been allowed to set fares "virtually at part with first class fares on subsonic aircraft" on its routes between London and New York and Washington. The Concorde return fare between London and New York is £2,399; first-class travel on a British Airways subsonic Boeing 747 is £1,986. The difference, about 20 per cent, remained fairly constant since 1977.

Concorde's operating profit, which British Airways estimates at about £10m this year, is made possible in large part by savings in capital cost. The airline was in effect given seven Concordes by the Government after an Anglo-French development project to which this country paid £900m.

This year's profits, about 80 per cent of which are to be paid back to the Government, have benefited from a variety of charter contracts, including a recent £5.5m deal with Cunard for a combination package with cruises on QE2.

Pan-Am's application in which it says Concorde's fare structure has caused a "significant amount of first class traffic to be diverted from US flag carriers to British Airways", comes during a US price war on flights to Britain. Some budget packages, whti restricted times of travel, offer savings of about 50 per cent on full fares.

The issue of Concorde had been "a simmering and festering problem" in bilateral fare negotiations for some time, a spokesman for Pan-Am said yesterday. "It is a classic case of capacity-dumping".

Some American airlines have also been showing concern at British Airways application to extend its service to Miami by way of Washington, creating a profitable British "gateway" to South America.

Pan-Am estimates that first-class fares, lost to Concorde total about £20m a year. Provisional figures show that the number of Concorde passengers grew this year by 2.6 per cent, with 75,000 travelling to and from New York and 10,000 to and from Washington.

Pan-Am's own fare structure means that Concorde prices for the New York-London route are only 10.2 per cent more than the first-class fare on an American subsonic aircraft. From Washington the difference is only 3.7 per cent. The American carriers argue that Concorde fares should be about 50 per cent above their subsonic first-class equivalents.

Mr Kenneth Warren, Conservative MP for Hastings and Rye and an aviation expert, said yesterday: "Pan American had an equal chance with British Airways to operate Concorde and it cancelled the order. I have never known Pan American to be slow at discounting tickets, particularly when it was waging war against Laker."

● British Airways, which cut the price of 100,000 Enterprise holidays before Christmas to make them on average 11 per cent cheaper than for this summer, reacted yesterday to the latest moves in the holiday price war by restating a pledge to match any competitor's price (Robin writes).

Mr Alan Waddell, general manager of British Airways tour operations, said: "We will not be undersold. We are confident that our prices are the cheapest for those holidays we have in common with Thomson and Intasun. If anyone finds an identical holiday to one of ours sold through a travel agent by any other operator, we will match that price."

British Airways is also increasing travel agents' commission by 1 per cent, to 11 per cent, until March 31 "to protect the retail trade from the serious financial effects the price war could have on them".

CONCORDE AND ITS RIVALS

	Concorde	First Class (subsonic)	APEX
Fare to New York	£2,399	£1,928	£299-£349
Fare to Washington	£2,426	£2,258	£329-£340
Time to New York	3hr 55min	7hr 40min	7hr 40min
Time to Washington	4hr 20min	8hr 15min	8hr 15min
Leg room	32in	60in	30in
Perks	Free drinks and food Seperate check-in Concorde lounge	Free drinks and food Seperate check-in Executive lounge	

All fares British Airways return



Tea and sympathy: Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, handing out hot drinks to homeless people at a warehouse in Vauxhall, south London, yesterday. The centre was used by Crisis at Christmas for five days to provide food and shelter to the single homeless. "I hope more people will be prepared to identify themselves with the unemployed", Mr Murray said (Photograph: John Voos).

Sightseeing in England

Pleasure parks grow in popularity

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

New tourist attractions, from heritage centres to adventure rides in mechanized pleasure parks, kept up the number of sightseers in 1982 despite a drop in popularity of longer established attractions, according to an English Tourist Board report published yesterday.

But the most popular attraction was the Science Museum (3.3 million visits), while the Tower of London was the most popular among those charging admissions (1.9 million).

The British Museum (2.7 million) moved from fourth to second position, overtaking the National Gallery (2.6 million) and the Natural History Museum (2.3 million).

Where admissions were charged the next most popular attractions were Madame Tussaud's (1.9 million) and Alton Towers (1.6 million).

Alton Towers, on the edge of the Potteries and strongly influenced by Disneyland, has several adventure rides, including a double corkscrew roller coaster.

The appeal to young adults has widened the attraction of leisure and amusement parks when a birthrate reduction could have affected them in line with the decline in visits over the past six years to wildlife parks, the survey suggests.

Kettering's Wicksteed Park added five rides, including a roller coaster and a pirate ship, during 1982. Admissions rose from 750,000 in 1981 to 1.25 million.

There were 161 million sightseeing visits last year, of which museums and galleries accounted for 51 million; historic buildings 48 million; wildlife attractions 16 million, and gardens more than seven million.

Direct comparisons with the 157 million visitors in 1981 cannot be made because of the inclusion of new attractions.

But visits to historic buildings dropped by 1 per cent and those to museums and wildlife centres by 2 per cent.

Heritage centres, of which a score have opened since Chester pioneered the idea in 1975, are benefiting from an increase in general sightseeing in historic towns, the survey says. The Tudor wreck, Mary Rose, exhibits pushed admissions to Southsea Castle up by 156 per cent, to 205,659.

The survey identifies a "Falkland factor" effect at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, the Royal Marines Museum, and the Royal Army Medical Corps Museum.

Sightseeing in 1982 (Dea:partment D, English Tourist Board, 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W ODU; £4, post free.

BBC rabbit vivisection report criticized

By David Hewson

A complaint against the BBC by Sheffield University has been partly upheld after a television programme aired allegations that stolen pet rabbits were used for vivisection experiments in a university laboratory.

The *Forty Minutes* documentary *Rabbits Don't Cry*, broadcast on October 21 last year, reported that a stolen pet had been found at Lodge Moor laboratory and was later reunited with its owner. The director of the laboratory had refused to be interviewed on the programme, but the BBC accepted that the university was innocent of the theft.

However, the Broadcasting Complaints Commission has ruled that the programme implied that on other occasions stolen pets would have been found at the laboratory.

"As the university were given no opportunity to rebut the allegations, the commission have no doubt that viewers could have concluded fron the programme that the university stole, or used, stolen pets. This was unfair", the commission's adjudication, published today, says.

The university complained that undue prominence was given to placards and comments from protesters alleging that stolen pets were used, through, after some of the protesters had been allowed into the laboratory, the presenter concluded: "The protesters found no evidence of stolen pets at Lodge Moor on this visit".

The commission did not uphold the university's complaint that the filming of the protesters was unfair.

But the *adjudication adds*: "By bringing the incident of the released pet into the programme, however, the BBC had raised the issue of pet stealing and the validity of the argument whether or not the university either stole or used stolen pets became a major issue".

The commission accepted that the programme producer believed from her research that the released pet had been stolen, but it was not satisfield on the evidence presented to it that the case had been proved.

Building boom for private houses

By John Young

Private house-building is enjoying its best period since the mid-1970s, and the market should remain buoyant next year, according to the latest figures from the National House-Building Council (NHBC) and two leading building societies.

Mr Andrew Tait, director general of the NHBC, said yesterday that new building starts this year were estimated at 170,000, the best for more than 10 years. Completions were 24 per cent up, at 152,000, the highest for seven years.

There were now 100,000 more jobs in private housing than three years ago, helping to compensate for losses in other parts of the construction industry, he said.

Among the reasons for the expanded market were the building of smaller units and the introduction of financial packages that made it easier for first-time buyers to meet the initial payments.

Predictions for next year were complicated by uncertainty over United States interest rates and an adequate supply of building land. But underlying potential demand remained strong as more people set up new homes *in* smaller households.

The best guess was that both starts and completions in the private sector should exceed 150,000, and more if interest rates fell.

Average house prices are estimated by the Nationwide Building Society to have risen by 12 per cent. The Leeds Permanent puts the figure somewhat lower at 9.4 per cent, but both societies point out that the increase is well above the rate of inflation.

Nationwide calculates that the average price of a home at the end of this year was £28,720, and the average mortgage advance £20,030. But there were wide variations between regions, increases ranging from 16 per cent to 18 per cent in London and the South-east to 7 per cent in Wales and Northern Ireland.

Although the house price index is nearly three times that *of 10 years ago, it has increased* more slowly than the retail price index.

But Mr Malcolm Hughes, the society's general manager (market planning), said yesterday that he expected house prices next year to continue to catch up on their long term relationship with average earnings.

Drink-drive worry for police chief

Stratchclyde police have caught more drinking drivers without a Christmas purge than other forces which have stopped and breathtested up to 10 times as many motorists.

Over the past five days they have carried out 96 positive tests and 29 negative ones. By comparison, the Derbyshire force, which had a Christmas clampdown, recorded 53 positive tests and 935 negative ones over 12 days. In Derbyshire last year 105 of 1,479 tests were positive.

An Automobile Association official said: "We are delighted that so many people have taken the advice not to drink if they are driving".

But Mr Alistair Petrie, Assistant Chief Constable of Stratchclyde, said he was disappointed that such a high proportion of motorists in his area had ignored the advice.

"We do not run purges, but *over the festive season we do* keep a high profile", he said. Motorists stopped for traffic offences or after accidents were tested if they were suspected of drinking.

Mr Petrie said he could not predict how many more motorists would have been caught if there had been a purge, but he hoped that more drivers would leave their cars at home for the new year celebrations.

Figures from several other forces show a reduction in the proportion of positive tests.

Call for immediate ban on 'risk' drugs

By Thomson Prentice, Medical Reporter

The delay in banning "potentially hazardous" cold remedies from sale in chemist shops without prescriptions was putting many people at risk, Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, said yesterday. He called for the immediate withdrawal of the products.

However, the Department of Health and Social Security said that its plan to limit the remedies 12 months from now was "purely a precautionary measure" and that there was no cause for concern.

The department has written to drug manufacturers asking them to reduce the content of phenylpropanolamine (PPA), an ingredient that helps to dry runny noses, in their products. PPA has been reported to have side effects including dangerously high blood pressure, heart problems, strokes, and hallucinations.

"Our proposal is that later in 1984 we should introduce regulations which will say that if a product has more than 25 milligrams of PPA in a single dose, whether it is a capsule, tablet, or spoonful, the product will be subject to a prescription-only order", the department said.

Cold remedies that contain PPA include Contac 400, Sinutab, Mu-Cron, Procol, and Beechams Catarrh Capsules. But the Department said: "The hazards which have been observed were at much higher dosages than are now available. We are pressing to halve the present dosages purely as a precaution."

Mr Ashley has written to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, saying: "The ban you are imposing is only to come into effect in 12 months. This is an indefensible delay which puts drug company profits before the health of the people.

"If the drugs are too risky for over-the-counter sales in 12 months' time, they are too risky now.

The department has invited the manufacturers to respond to its letter by January 16.

£100 fine for smoking in court

A man was fined £100 for contempt of court yesterday after he lit a cigarette in the public gallery at West London Magistrates' Court. He had also drunk a cup of coffee in the gallery.

The magistrate, Mr Eric Crowther, had ordered Stephen Miles, aged 19, a warehouse manager, of Westbury Road, Ealing, west London, to be arrested as he waited for his brother to appear on a charge of using threatening behaviour.

Teacher fights council for job

A High Court judge gave leave yesterday to a teacher to challenge her dismissal from Orleans infants' school by Richmond upon Thames Borough Council in south-west London and to seek an order directing the council to allow her to teach in a suitable school.

Princess Asokamala Lakshmi Tammita-Delgoda, of Lower Richmond Road, Richmond, who is supported by the Asian Teacher's Forum, says the council acted unfairly and unlawfully in accepting the school governors' dismissal recommendation.

Olivier home to write book

Lord Olivier, who left St Thomas's Hospital, London, on December 23 after a kidney operation, is preparing to write a book to be called *Olivier on Acting*.

The actor, agd 76, is also to appear in an Anglia Television play, *Lovesong*, by Jeffrey Archer, in May.

Audi recalls 4,000 cars

Audi is recalling up to 4,000 of the 100 series models in Britain after reports of the left rear brake hose chafing against a retaining clip.

"There is a risk of one of the two circuits failing during use", a company official said. But the driver would still have a back-up circuit.

TV for budgie

Bluey the budgerigar got his own three-inch £250 colour television set for Christmas, as a gift from his owner, Mrs Elizabeth Porter, aged 36, of Cumpsty Road, Litherland, Merseyside.

Fire kills three

Samuel Kelly, aged 62, his daughter Catherine, aged 28, and his granddaughter Susan, aged 9, died yesterday in a fire, believed to have been started by Christmas tree lights, at their home in Cork.

Troubled passenger predicted last cruise

By Kenneth Gosling

Mr Eric Wright, who disappeared with his wife, Olive, on a Christmas sea trip, told a family friend, the Rev John Rees, the night before leaving: "This will be the last cruise I take on the QE2".

Mr Wright, aged 65, a businessman with a furnishing and upholstery company, had a furnishing contract on the QE2 and often used to take his wife on board.

The couple vanished from the ship on Christmas night, leaving a note in their cabin.

Both had appeared happy that day and joined in the *celebrations, but they failed to* appear for Christmas dinner or for breakfast the next day and the alarm was raised.

Yesterday Mr Rees disclosed that Mrs Wright, aged 64, was "a very sick woman". He said she had sometimes appeared to be nearly in a coma and did not know what was happening around her. "Mr Wright loved his wife very much", Mr Rees said.

One of the Wrights' sons-in-law, Mr John Tompkins, said: "He used to worry about her a lot. They were in good spirits when they left.

The Wrights came originaly from Sheffield and had lived in Canford Cliffs, between Poole and Bournemouth, for the past 25 years.

An inquest was opened when *the QE2 reached St Thomas in* the Virgin Islands. It will be resumed in Britain.

The QE2, which is on a Caribbean cruise, is due in New York next Wednesday.

Stores seek ways to curb £1bn vandalism

By a Staff Reporter

The year just ending has seen a wave of damage to and theft from shops that, according to one estimate will have cost Britain's stores £1,000m.

One London company that supplies vandal-proof materials has completed a survey which shows, according to its sales director, Mr Tom Ellison, that the past year has shown an even greater increase in the problem than in previous years.

Spray-can graffiti are still much in evidence and sharp instruments are being used to damage shopfronts and interior fittings.

The findings of the company, Rigidized Metals, which sent its salesmen to carry out interviews in 200 stores, are borne out by Lady Phillips, director of the Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops. She is supporting a private member's Bill on trespass to be introduced in the House of Lords.

"It's so amusing to me to read about the problems of shoplifting by poor little old ladies when you know what things are really like", she said. "I believe the Bill, which would make trespass a criminal offence, would help this problem.

"At the moment the only charge is breach of the peace which is a very difficult thing to establish. By the time the police arrive a group of youngsters will all be looking very innocent."

Lady Phillips said one of the reasons departmental stores were opposed to Sunday opening was because it was one more day, like Saturday, when premises could be damaged.

"I believe shops are built for folk like me who want to enjoy themselves spending their money and not being bothered by terrorists or vandals", she said.

One theory being advanced about why so much damage is being caused is that shoppers, particularly young people, take out their frustration at not being able to afford goods they see on the shelves by deliberately damaging showcases and other equipment.

"There is a fear that things are getting worse", Mr Anthony Edwards, a spokesman for Rigidized Metals, said. One leading store group, he said, had even formed a psychiatric department to look at ways of keeping shoppers happy.









Chess mastery (left to right): Lev Alburt, a Russian emigrant to the United States where he is rated number two; Britain's Nigel Short, now aiming for Grandmaster; and Gyula Sax, the Hungarian number three, at the start of the 59th International Chess Congress in Hastings yesterday (Photographs: Harry Kerr).

BBC poll 'open to lobbying'

By A Staff Reporter

The BBC poll which made Mgr Bruce Kent man of the year and Mrs Margaret Thatcher woman of the year could have been the subject of a most *clever* lobby, Mr Julian Holland, the editor of the radio programme, *Today*, which organized it, said yesterday.

The poll of *Today* listeners was based on "a few thousand post cards" after a small number, from an obvious lobby in favour of a candidate Mr Holland declined to name, were rejected.

"There was less reason to discount votes this year than last year, and very few were discounted. That is not to say a most clever lobby has not taken place.

"I have always regarded the poll as being a bit of fun at the end of the year, but I do get terribly serious letters from people asking how we can do this kind of thing", Mr Holland said.

Today checked listeners' post cards to try to ensure that the result was not 'rigged'.

"We go through the cards very carefully and we can find things that make it fairly clear when a lobby is operating. Obviously CND supporters are going to vote for Bruce Kent, but Conservatives will vote for Margaret Thatcher.

"What we have to try to do is discourage the organized lobby, where people who are not *listeners* to the programme spoil everyone's fun."

Mr Holland refused to disclose the margin of Mgr Kent's lead over the man in second place Mr Eddie Shah, the proprietor of the *Stockport Messenger* newspaper. If we were to give people an idea of the difference on the votes it would then make the lobbyists' task easier.

Leading article, page 11

Video phone promised

A video conference service to enable transatlantic "face to face" discussions will be launched by British Telecom next year, its chairman, Sir George Jefferson, said yesterday.

The video conference terminal, developed with other European telephone organizations, will allow high-quality pictures to be transmitted over telephone lines.

It is hoped that a similar British facility, to be called Videostream, *will also* be introduced next year.

The equipment is bulky, so British Telecom expects the service to appeal to business rather than personal users.

In a new year message to customers and staff, Sir George said that 1984 would go down "as the year when the communications system of the twenty-first century began to take shape".

Israel reviews Lebanon policy in attempt to cut casualty list

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

A sweeping review of Israel's security policy in southern Lebanon is being conducted by military chiefs and new proposals aimed at cutting down the continuing high rate of Israeli casualties are due to be presented to the government for approval early next year.

Lieutenant General Moshe Levy, the Chief of Staff, claimed yesterday that the continuing presence in southern Lebanon remained vital for the security of Israel's northern border.

He confirmed that a key aspect of the review remained the policy of maintaining open bridges along the Awali River, now Israel's front line. There is strong pressure inside the army for the bridges to be shut to reduce the flow of explosives used for ambushes, but that would lead to the virtual partition of Lebanon.

Since the middle of September, over 40 Israelis have been killed in southern Lebanon, including the 29 who died in the Tyre suicide bombing. The latest attack took place yesterday when one soldier was killed and two wounded near the town of Jezzine.

Another suggestion is a second withdrawal to a new front line along the Zahrani River. Such a controversial move would put the main south Lebanese city of Sidon outside Israeli control, and could have serious economic and social consequences in Lebanon.

In recent weeks, most of the attacks against Israeli targets have been concentrated in the Sidon area, and the approach road to the city along the coast is now known to disgruntled Israeli soldiers as "bomb alley". Army officers acknowledge that opinion is divided about the desirability of a second withdrawal southwards.

General Levy paid an unexpected compliment to the retrained Lebanese Army about which Israeli commanders have been scathing in the past. The Chief of Staff said that he was surprised at its efficiency. Its men, plus the Lebanese Druze militia, were capable of controlling terrorism in the area, he said.

● CAIRO: A senior Egyptian foreign ministry representative will visit Israel today for talks on bilateral issues (Reuter reports).

Arafat to convene Fatah talks in Tunis

Tunis (AFP) - Mr Yassir Arafat is expected here tonight to convene a meeting of the leadership of Fatah, the divided Palestine Liberation Organization's leading component.

Some Fatah central committee members are already here, waiting to ask Mr Arafat why he met President Mubarak of Egypt last week in Cairo. Others may boycott the meeting altogether.

Mr Arafat's meeting with President Mubarak has been widely criticized within the PLO, which strongly condemned the Egyptian peace agreement with Israel and subsequently refused contacts with Cairo.

ADEN: About 580 PLO fighters, including 52 families, evacuated from Lebanon with Mr Arafat, have arrived in South Yemen to join another 1,000 men evacuated from Beirut after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. (Reuter reports).

Mr Arafat is at present in Sanaa, North Yemen, where he and other PLO leaders have been working out a new strategy.

Beirut tries to save fragile truce

Beirut (Reuter) – A fragile truce between the Lebanese Army and Shia militiamen held for the second day yesterday as a special security committee met in an effort to devise a lasting peace.

The committee met for the first time after the representative for the Shia Amal movement agreed to suspend his boycott. The army, Druze Progressive Socialist Party and Christian coalition, known as the "Lebanese Forces", are also represented on the four-man committee.

No significant violations of the truce were reported yesterday but Beirut radio said a mortar shell landed near an army position in the eastern sector of the battle zone in Beirut's southern suburbs, wounding two civilians.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister, Mr Elie Salem, met the American, French and Italian ambassadors to discuss their views on the presence of their troops in the multinational force in Beirut.

Official sources said the ambassadors had assured him that their forces would remain as long as the Lebanese Government needed them.

In the Israeli-held port of Sidon, four cars and a number of buildings were damaged by explosives on Tuesday night

● DAMASCUS: Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, yesterday told a press conference that he had serious doubts about the possibility of a peaceful solution in his country (Reuter reports).

● ROME: A total of 249 Soldiers from the Italian contingent yesterday returned home on a special flight from Cyprus, the Defence Ministry said (Reuter reports).

Signor Giovannin Spadolini, the Defence Minister, announced last week that Italy would begin a phased and partial withdrawal of its 2,200 troops.

Assad fear allayed by editor

Paris (NYT) – A French magazine editor, who interviewed President Hafez al-Assad of Syria last week said the President had told him he was convalescing but had not specified the nature of his illness.

M Michel Columes, the managing editor of the weekly news magazine *Le Point*, described Mr Assad as looking, all in all, rather well. He believed that he and a reporter for *Le Point* Mme Mireille Dutei, were the first Westerners to see the President in over a month.

President Assad has not been seen in public since the middle of November, and there has been speculation in Western capitals about his health, with some reports suggesting that he was partly paralysed.

M Columes and Mme Duteil talked with Mr Assad for about an hour and a half last Tuesday in a small private house near Damascus. Their interview was originally scheduled to last 15 minutes.

When the President walked into the room, M Columes said, he was slightly stooped. "He walked with relative precaution. He didn't walk like a guy normally does."

The editor said he had heard outside Syria that Mr Assad's right side had been affected by his illness.

Freed Zimbabwe officers on their way home

From Stephen Taylor, Harrare

The last three Zimbabwean Air Force officers of the group detained over aircraft sabotage are due to fly out of here tonight on one-way tickets.

Wing Commander John Cox, aged 36, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, aged 31, and Ar Lieutenant Neville Weir, aged 24, were released from Chikurubi maximum security prison last Thursday and given a week to sort out their affairs.

They had spent the last 16 months in custody, although acquitted in August of charges of involvement in the Thornhill sabotage operation last year.

Wing Commander Cox and Air Lieutenant Lloyd were reunited emotionally with their wives and children in time for Christmas. They have declined to speak publicly about their ordeal, which included torture before making forced confessions, but friends said they were concerned for the fate of the other detainees.

Seven officers were originally detained and six brought before the High Court. After their acquittal and subsequent redetention three, including Air Vice Marshal Hugh Slatter – former Deputy Commander – were allowed to leave the country. A fourth was also released after a review tribunal.

Grenada visit seen as Strauss manoeuvre

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Among the many diplomatic and political coups of Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the ambitious Prime Minister of Bavaria, his unexpected visit to Grenada must count as one of his cleverest attempts to influence German foreign policy while increasing his party's weight in the Bonn coalition and his own visibility on the world stage.

Herr Strauss, interrupting a Caribbean holiday, arrived in St George's with his wife on Tuesday from Florida after an aircraft had been put at his disposal. He said Bonn and the European Community should support the beginning of democracy in the island, and pointedly emphasized his approval of American actions in Grenada.

Herr Strauss met Mr Nicholas Braithwaite, leader of the interim administration, and flew round the island to visit the sites of the recent fighting. He called his trip a "political information journey" to acquaint himself with the situation.

The Grenada issue was a main point of disagreement within the coalition after Herr Strauss forcefully condemned the initial disapproval for the American actions from Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister.



All in favour: Members of the Politburo voting during a meeting of the Supreme Soviet (front left to right): Andrei Gromyko, Konstantin Chernenko, Nikolai Tikhonov; (second row): Grigory Romanov, Viktor Grishin, Mikhail Gorbachov; (third row): Boris Ponomarygov (candidate member). Dinmukhamed Kunayev, Mikhail Solomentsev, and three unnamed in the back row, one with voting rights.

Symbols of continuity at Supreme Soviet

From Richard Owen, Moscow

There was none of the mild excitement which gripped the Supreme Soviet this time last year, when the 1,500 deputies not only raised their hands in automatic approval of party resolutions but also studied the *Pravda* text of the new leader's first speech and stared at him sitting on the platform.

Yesterday, it was Mr Nickolai Tikhonov, aged 75, Prime Minister to both President Brezhnev and President Andropov, who sat in the hot seat, a symbol of reassurance and experience but not of impending change.

Further along in the front row were Mr Konstantin Chernenko, Mr Andropov's white-haired but vigorous rival, and two more symbols of continuity: Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, and Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister.

Earlier there were rumours that Mr Tikhonov was on the way out and might be replaced as Prime Minister either by Mr Geidar Aliyev, the ambitious former Azerbaijani leader, aged 60, or by Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov, aged 57, President Andropov's old protégée, who on Monday rose with meteoric speed to become a full Politburo member. But yesterday, at least there were no surprises, and neither Mr Aliyev nor Mr Vorotnikov looked as if they were about to take over.

Down in the body of the hall the deputies, drawn from all over the Soviet Union, sat reading documents in a neat blue folder.

Other deputies are less anonymous: Mr Andrei Kirilenko, once Brezhnev's chosen successor but removed from the Politburo by Mr Andropov last year, appeared briefly, a ghost from the past, occasionally glancing up at the platform

Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the Chief of Staff, walked about the hall in uniform, gripping deputies elbows and holding deep discussions, possibly on President Reagan's anxieties about "bellicose statements" by "top Soviet military leaders".

He returned to his seat, the only delegate without a blue folder, and sat impassively with his hands gripping the cleared desk-top. In front of him Professor Georgy Arbatov, the Kremlin's top American expert, sat reading *Pravda*, while Mr Baibakov, the head of Gospan, the State Planning Committee, gave a methodical recitation of industrial statistics.

As fresh falls of snow drifted past the high windows of the Great Hall, most deputies chatted, dozed or reread Mr Andropov's Monday speech, in which he said Russia's production included 500,000 television sets, 115,000 radios and 250,000 cameras, which did not work.

Summing up begins in Simonstown spy trial

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

The Judge-President of the Cape, Mr Justice G. G. A. Munnik, yesterday began delivery "in camera" of his judgment in the Cape Supreme Court in one of South Africa's most sensational spy trials. His verdict is expected today.

On trial on charges of high treason, which carry a maximum penalty of death by hanging, are Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, the former commander of the dockyard at the Simonstown naval base, and his wife, Ruth, both pleaded not guilty when the trial began on September 5.

Commodore Gerhardt is accused of having spied for the Soviet Union for 21 years, and Mrs Gerhardt, his second wife, is alleged to have helped him since 1970 to maintain a secret communications network with agents used by the USSR "by means of so-called dead-letter boxes and/or drops, radio transmissions, couriers and personal visits to foreign countries to communicate with said agents".

The indictment was read during an open session lasting only 10 minutes at the start of the trial. Since then all proceedings have been held in secret

The case has aroused considerable interest in Britain and the US where there is speculation that Commodore Gerhardt could have passed to the Russians contingency plans for possible use by the West of the Simonstown naval base in the event of a world war.

Museum doubles its space

New York (NYT) – The Museum of Modern Art will close next Wednesday for four months to complete the $55m (£36m) expansion and renovation project that began in the autumn of 1980.

The project has involved the renovation of all facilities and construction of a west wing that will more than double the exhibition space and enable the museum to put almost twice as many works on display. In addition, a 44-storey residential tower has been completed above the new wing by a private developer, who paid the museum $17m in property rights. Some tenants have already moved in.

When the 54-year-old museum reopens in May the departments of painting and sculpture, architecture and design, photography, drawings, prints and illustrated books will have their own galleries for the first time and the film department will have a second auditorium.

The old building was not built to accommodate its attendance, said Mr Richard Oldenburg, director of the museum, "When they opened the museum, they imagined there would be 500 visitors a day. We had 7,000 visitors a day with the Picasso exhibition in 1980."

"What the museum was able to put on display was tiny in proportion to the collection's size," he continued. "I am not just talking about painting and sculpture but also about the museum's other departments, which will now be much more visible."

Mr William Rubin, the museum's director of painting and sculpture, explaining why the museum was closing temporarily, said: "We need time to figure things out. Given the amount of moving around that will be required, for the museum to be closed any less than four months would also endanger the works of art."

Despite doubling in size and what Mr Oldenburg sees as a probable parallel increase in attendance, the museum expects to keep its previous character.

During the museum's long reorganization and reinstallation, many logistical and aesthetic problems arose. The library and museum shop have had to move and many members of the staff had to move their offices to other buildings, sometimes more than once.

The reinstallation has involved elaborate plans on paper, mock-ups, and for the department of painting and sculpture, what Mr Rubin calls "dry runs." By the time the new installation is completed, almost all the roughly 700 paintings and sculptures on display will have been tested in place.

"All the way through we have done dry runs," Mr Rubin said: "We have had to check framing; we have had to worry about pedestals. There may have to be changes in the ceiling lighting, in the fixtures, and above all in the size and positioning of the walls."

Sculpture poses a special problem. "There is no way to know how to block sculptures and know the angles without trying it," Mr Rubin said. "For example, in the Miró gallery we had an Arp on a projection from the wall. Until we saw it in place, we couldn't see that it was blocking so much of the room."

Every installation, he went on, was a critique of the history of art. The emphasis given to Miró within surrealism, for example, has implications not only for the interpretation of that movement but also for its place in the subsequent history of painting.

Talbot workers asked to end sit-in

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

Talbot, the French car company, yesterday asked unions and workers to obey a court order ending a sit-in at the giant plant at Poissy, near Paris. Up to 500 workers, more than half of them foreign-born, have been occupying the plant since before Christmas to protest against company plans to make about 2,000 workers redundant.

Peugeot, owner of Talbot, which lost some £263m in 1982, says that it will be "far from breaking even" this year, and must shed a total of 7,500 jobs in its French plants to guarantee survival.

Unions and workers were last night continuing their defiance. The Communist-run trade union organization CGT organized a demonstration outside company headquarters in cental Paris.

French industry, page 13

Bangladesh polling suspended after riots

Dhaka (Reuter) - Voting in at least 17 rural election centres across Bangladesh has been suspended after at least 150 people were injured in clashes between supporters of rival candidates.

Police were said to have opened fire to disperse crowds who beat up polling officers and intimidated voters. At least a dozen people were killed during the campaign.

Hard labour for Estonians

Stockholm - Ten Estonians have been sentenced to between eight and 15 years' hard labour by the Tallin High Court, an exile organization in Stockholm said. (Christopher Mosey writes).

The ten were accused of plundering state property accepting bribes and abusing their official positions, according to Aid Central for Political Prisoners in Estonia.

Liberian coup trial adjourned

Abidjan (Reuter) Nineteen people have appeared before a Monrovia military tribunal charged with high treason in connexion with a plot to overthrow Gereral Doe, the Liberian leader.

The trial was adjourned after the defence argued that no specific charges had been laid. Brigadier-General Thomas Quiwonkpa, who is alleged to have masterminded the plot, is widely believed to have escaped abroad.

Seoul scandal

Seoul (Reuter) A former South Korean Cabinet minister found guilty of accepting bribes has been sentenced to seven years in jail and fined £70,000. Yoon Ja Jung, a former Transport Mininster, had pleaded not guilty.

US meat ban

Washington (AFP) – The United States has barred imports of meat and chicken from 14 countries, including Mexico and France, because standards of checking are considered too lax.

Election delay

Colombo (Reuter) President Jayewardene has postponed parliamentary elections in northern and eastern Sri Lanka because of the unsettled security situation.

Court refusal

San Francisco (Reuter) - The California Supreme Court has refused to hear a plea from a woman suffering from cerebral palsy that she be allowed to starve herself to death. Miss Elizabeth Bouvia, aged 26, who is confined to a wheelchair has said her life has lost all its value.

Dates for Zhao

Peking (AFP) - China has announced the dates for Mr Zhao Ziyang's visit next month to North America. The Prime Minister will visit the United States from January 10 to 16, and Canada from January 17 to 23.

Polish congress

Warsaw (Reuter) The Polish Communist Party is to hold in March its first full-scale meeting since an emergency congress in 1981 at the height of the Solidarity challenge.

Boy accused

Nairobi (Reuter) – A five-year-old boy has appeared in court at Eldoret, western Kenya, accused of murdering another five-year-old, who died after being hit on the head with a blunt object.

Iran's economy under strain

Oil repairs ravages of war and ideology

By Richard Dowden

"One pound and a half, one thousand rial, very cheap", said the Tehran shopkeeper, a rather despondent old man with a stall of cheap jewelry.

"But a pound is only 130 rials", I said, puzzled.

"You change it on black market you get 700 rial, maybe more", said the shopkeeper.

"Would you take British pounds?" I asked.

"No, it's too dangerous, but many people will."

We broke off negotiations. A combination of shortages, inflation and very strict controls on foreign currency has given the Iranian economy some peculiar twists.

Prices tend to follow the black market price for the dollar, so that anyone buying in Iran with money changed at the official rate pays about seven or eight times the real price. Foreign currency and imported goods are in great demand but penalties for black marketeering are fierce.

Basic foodstuffs are rationed and cheap but on the black market prices are erratic. For example, every family is entitled to 6 kilos (13lb) of rice per week at 190 rials per kilo (about £1.50). On the black market rice has sometimes reached 1,100 rials a kilo.

Ration cards are distributed by the mosques, which gives the mullahs some political power but also means that they will be blamed if things go wrong. There have already been reports of mullahs being attacked by angry crowds accusing them of corruption.

The three-year-old Gulf War, which soaks up a third of the national income, has imposed considerable hardship on the people, but their expectations have been lowered by a blood, sweat and tears attitude, and the Government presents the hardship as sacrifice for the war effort.

Considering the earthquakes that the Iranian economy has suffered in recent years it is in remarkably good shape. The revolution in 1979, bringing in a strongly ideological government which caused a flight of capital and skilled manpower, followed by the Iraqi attack in 1980, would have devastated most economies.

The Khomeini regime is, however, far more pragmatic in some matters than its rhetoric would suggest. It has managed to keep the oil flowing, and is now beginning to revitalize the development of the country's vast mineral resources.

Iran is exporting at least 1.7 million barrels of oil a day, and could produce more if gas injection was used in some of the wells. Its foreign debt has been paid off, and it now has reserves estimated at about $6bn (£4.3bn).

The strict import controls imposed because of the war have hampered development and shortages have created an inflation rate of between 20 and 40 per cent. Unemployment is running at between three and four million, or about 20 per cent of the workforce.

The Government is trying to bring down unemployment by boosting oil-based industries and reviving agriculture. Foodstuffs are now the second biggest import item after war materials.

But the main economic problems facing the Government have political roots. The first is the power of the *bazariis*, the traditional merchant families ranging from street sellers to big importers.

According to Islam, while ostentation and extravagance are discouraged, wealth as such is not. The rich man is supposed to support his poorer brethren by *zakah*, gifts to the poor. The Government hopes that somehow the rich will be devout enough to distribute their wealth for the good of the community.

Meanwhile, the bigger *bazariis* are making more money than they did under the Shah, and their inclination is to get it transferred into dollars and out of the country as fast as they can. Failure to come to terms with their wealth and power could cost the Government the support of its younger revolutionaries, who are inspired by ideals of social justice.

The second problem comes with the plan to Islamicize the economy. There is no working model of an Islamic economy, and the Government is trying to abolish bank interest in accordance with the Koran's prohibition on usury.



Aftermath: All that remained of a row of buildings after the gas explosion

Gas blast and fire kills six in Buffalo

Buffalo (Reuter, AP) – Six people died in a propane gas explosion in central Buffalo on Tuesday night. Five of the dead were firemen and the sixth was a civilian.

The explosion and fire destroyed 37 houses, two blocks of flats, a church, a warehouse and several businesses. Thirteen firemen and 47 local residents were injured.

The blast occurred in temperatures of 20°F (-6°C) at about 8.30 pm local time (1.30 am GMT on Wednesday), just minutes after three fire vehicles had arrived to check a report of a propane leak around a bakery supply building and an adjacent four-story brick warehouse.

About 15 firemen were searching for the leak in and around the warehouse when the building exploded with two blasts felt up to 15 miles away. Windows were broken half a mile away.

The fire after the explosion spread quickly to the adjacent bakery and wood-frame houses, and more than 150 firemen fought to control the flames. The blaze, so hot it melted parts of fire vehicles and covered a square mile with thick black smoke, raged out of control for more than three hours. A fireman said that when he arrived with the fourth group of fire vehicles the block was "a sea of fire."

Debris crushed one fire vehicle and badly damaged two others.

Economic reality makes East Germany Bonn's reluctant friend

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

As a sombre and difficult year for West Germany comes to an end, Bonn is looking optimistically at the one area in international realations where things seem to be brighter than for many years – relations with East Germany.

There are strong hopes here that the extraordinary momentum in strengthening links can be controlled. The Kohl Government has already dismissed as unfounded talk of a new "Ice Age" between the two German states as a result of West German deployment of Nato missiles.

Delicate negotiations with East Berlin over the Berlin surface railway have almost come to a succeddful conclusion; more talks are due on other areas of cooperation. East Germany is continuing to dismantle automatic firing devices along the frontier; and Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, is expected to make his postponed visit here in the coming year.

No one in the Chancellor's office or the Ministry for Inner-German Relations is under any illusion that the apparent thaw is the result of a change of heart of newly-discovered benevolence towards the Federal Republic among senior party officials. Bonn knows that East Germany is now so dependent economically on West Germay that it cannot afford to antagonize its neighbour.

A look at the figures shows why the relationship is so vital if Herr Honecker is to fulfil his promise to raise living standards and thus win grater popula acceptance for the communist regime.

The world recession has hurt East Germany. Oil deliveries from the Soviet Uniion have been cut. The country is heavinly indebted to the West, owing $9,400m (£6,270m). More than 80 per cent of Western currency earnings are used to service its debts. And valuable export markets in the West have shrunk with the recession.

Yet trade between the two states had developed rapidly. In the first six months of this year, West Germany exported the equivalent of DM4,300m (£1,050m) worth of goods – an increase of 33 per cent on the first half of 1982. East German exports to the Federal Republic rose 2 per cent to DM3,600m. Total turnover this year is expected to reach DM15,000m.

There will be a small imbalance of about DM5000m in West Germany's favour in 1983 – worrying for East Berlin, which enjoyed a surplus in trade with Bonn in earlier years. East Germany also owes a total of DM5,500m to West German firms for goods already bought.

But East Germany enjoys one vital advantage in trade with its Western neighbour: back-door access to a leading member of the European Community. A protocol to the Treaty of Rome allows West Germany to import East German goods without their facing the Common Community Tariff Barrier. This privilege is surprisingly little abused. Only 0.8 per cent of these imports were sent on duty-free to other Community countries – and Bonn is vigilant in trying to stamp out even that small amount.

There is strict limitation on East German agricultural exports. But the country has one milch cow which provides it with vast sums of money: West Berlin. Bonn's payments for access to the divided former capital are colossal, amounting last year to a lump sum of DM525m for transit rights, 50m for the use of East German roads, 60.3m for the building and repairs of existing access roads, 37.5m in canal dues, 24m for railway operations and 36m for the environment.

On top of all this, Bonn last year granted credit facilities of DM1,000m. Ironically, according to post-war regulations, West German banks are not permitted to grant credit to East Germany (though they have been lavish with funds for Poland and the Soviet Union). The consortium granting the DM 1,000m had to rely on branches overseas.

But already there is talk – hotly denied by Bonn – that another big credit arrangement is in the offing. For such a thing to be possible, East Germany had to convince Bonn that it is serious in wanting to improve bilateral relations. And that is why inner-German relations are looking so comparatively rosy.




Give and take: Dr Kohl (left) and Herr Honecker.

Together again: Giorgio Calissoni being comforted in hospital by his sister Laura after his release by kidnappers who slashed off his ear to reinforce their ransom demand. They held Giorgio, 17, and his mother Anna Bulgari from November 19 until releasing them on Christmas Eve.

Hunger strike in Sardinia jail

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The maximum security wing of a Sardinian prison where at least seven terrorists are on hunger strike is in the news after the Pope's highly publicized visit to the Turkish terrorist Ali Agca in a Rome jail.

Seven condemned terrorists began a hunger strike on December 8 as a protest against what they claim to be excessive restrictions. From December 23 the protest became more serious when the men refused milk and sugar and accepted only water. There is now a suggestion that they may be fed intravenously.

Questions have been tabled in Parliament about the conditions in which the terrorists are held and Signor Marco Pannella, the Radical Party leader, who visited the prison has said that another four men are about to join the hunger strike.

The Sardinian protest comes at a crucial moment for Italian justice. Crime appears to be under control more effectively than at any time in the last decade with the exception of drug traffic.

Up to the end of November, crimes attributed to terrorists were down by 30 per cent, compared with the previous year.

The Pope's action follows a new path being laid down by the Roman Catholic Church in dealing with the problem of prisons. Last month a meeting of prison chaplains, presided over by Cardinal Martini, the Archbishop of Milan, insisted on the need for protecting human rights and strongly attacked the weakest moral link in Italian justice which is the long wait before trial.

Charge may wreck Singapore party



From David Watts, Singapore

Opposition politics in Singapore took another lurch towards oblivion yesterday when two key officials of the Workers' Party appeared in court.

The party's only MP, Mr J. B. "Ben" Jeyaretnam, and the Secretary-General, Mr Wong Hong Toy, were charged with making false statements in connexion with party accounts.

According to the Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Glenn Knight, cheques to the value of 2,600 Singapore dollars (about £860) were not recorded in the accounts when they were examined by the Official Receiver last year.

The party's financial affairs were put in the hands of the receiver after it failed to pay a fine of more than 17,000 Singapore dollars arising out of a lost libel case against an official of the then Singapore Radio and Television Service in 1974.

The outcome is crucial for the party and Mr Jeyaretnam has a legal ally of longstanding defending him, Mr John Mortimer, QC. Yesterday, a baleful Mr Jeyaretnam strongly refuted each charge as it was read, while Mr Mortimer, creator of the TV series, *Rumpole of the Bailey*, perused case files with raised eyebrows.

Should Mr Jeyaretnam lose, a fine of more than $2,000 or jail term would force him out of politics through forfeiture of his seat at a time when there is talk of elections.

Although an election is not expected until at least the middle of next year, a guilty finding would scarcely help the party.

It was an exchange on elections which prompted the latest battle between Mr Jeyaretnam and Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, in Parliament just before Christmas. Mr Jeyaretnam asked why the opposition party should not be represented on a committee which will redraw constituency boundaries.

Mr Lee, calling Mr Jeyaretnam a continous purveyor of untruth, said the House extended him the sense of importance he himself felt he deserved. "But if he wants us to take him seriously as a person who represents the opposition, the alternative government, then he must comport himself as such.



Mr Mortimer: Rumpole's creator defends a friend.

Gandhi move to left isolates opposition

From Michael Hamlyn, Calcutta

Mrs Gandhi's Congress (I) Party took a smart step or two to the left yesterday in an effort to outflank and isolate the opposition parties. The shift may, however, be only one of language, since the actions of Mrs Gandhi's Government have tended to be pragmatic rather than theoretically based.

And as she said yesterday when introducing a series of resolutions at her party conference in Calcutta: "Democracy cannot exist without socialism, but I do not use the word in the way the Communist countries use it, or in the way some Western countries use it." She said her party wanted an Indian kind of socialism, "which is why we cannot exactly define what we mean by socialism when we are asked".

None the less, the resolutions she introduced to the 77th plenary session of the Indian National Congress were vehement in their denunciation of the rightist tendencies of the opposition. In particular, they attacked the National Democratic Alliance combination of Lok Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party, which was called "totally reactionary in its social and political outlook".

Three resolutions were put forward yesterday, on politics, economics and international affairs. The political resolution emphasized the historial background to Congress's socialism, and urged a continuation along that road. The economic resolution declared: "Large industrial houses should be compelled to conform to national priorities", while the international one condemned the United States not only for its invasion of Grenada but also for its role in the arms race.

The Communist parties, however, came off fairly lightly in the resolutions. They were rapped for failing to understand the strength of the external threat to India, and were lectured about "social transformation by consent". But there was nothing like the virulence associated with the attacks on the other parties.

"The influence of the Leftist parties is extremely limited," the Finance Minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, told me. "It has influence only in the two states of Bengal and in Kerala, and in any case Congress is a left of centre party."

The Minister, a Bengali himself and one of the organizers of the conference, added: "The real challenge is not from the left in any case."

The so-called rightist parties were also strongly castigated for their communal, casteist and separatist tendencies. The resolutions continued the denunciation of the threat to national unity made at the meeting of the Congress committee in Bombay earlier this year. The political resolution declares: "The opposition parties, particularly of the right, do not seem to take seriously the grave dangers posed to India's unity and stability."

Special censure is reserved for the National Conference Government of Dr Farooq Abdullah in Jammu and Kashmir. It is attacked for providing training camps for Akali extremists from Punjab, and for attempting "in collusion with secessionist and anti-national elements to throttle political dissent."

The resolutions were discussed by a working party on Tuesday night in a five-hour session behind closed doors. After their introduction yesterday they were debated publicly by the "subject committee" and will be further discussed today at the full plenary session.

Dr Runcie to appeal for tortured priest

By Michael Horsnell

Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has been asked to intervene to secure the release from prison of a Romanian Orthodox priest who has allegedly been beaten on the hands to prevent him making the sign of the cross.

The condition of Father Gheorghe Calciu-Dumitreasa, aged 58, who has been incarcerated at Jilava near Bucharest *for five years, is said to be poor.*

Father Calciu, who has been in and out of prison for 20 years because of his faith and support for a banned free trade union, was the subject of an appeal by Dr Runcie when he visited Romania last year.

Since then, it is understood by the British Romanian Association in London, which has asked Dr Runcie to help, he has been beaten with a stick by guards. It is believed that Dr Runcie will make a private appeal to the Romanian Ambassador.

Canon Christopher Hill, the Archbishop's adviser on ecumenical affairs, said yesterday: "It is understood that Father Calciu's wife visited him last month and found that he spends long periods in solitary confinement. She said his hands were blue and swollen after being beaten by guards who saw him praying. Father Calciu is a distinguished man whom Dr Runcie wishes to help."

Bignone facing second indictment as 'dirty war' inquiry expands

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Barely three weeks after he stepped down as President of Argentina, retired General Reynaldo Bignone finds himself embroiled in investigations into human rights violations during the seven years of military rule.

General Bignone is to testify today, as an indicted party, on the abduction and disappearance in 1978 of a Buenos Aires laboratory technician. He was indicted last week in a separate court investigation into the kidnapping and presumed murder of two young Communist Party members in 1976.

The cases coincide with bold initiatives by Argentina's newly inaugurated civilian Government to get to the bottom of the military's so-called "dirty war" against left-wing terrorism.

More than 6,000 Argentines are believed to have been abducted and murdered by state security and armed forces personnel after the military seized power in 1976. The military regime proclaimed an amnesty in September this year, which protected from prosecution members of the security agencies and armed forces who carried out what the military calls "repression of subversion" and what human right groups describe as "genocide."

Repeal of the amnesty was a compaign promise of President Raúl and was signed into law by him on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, has announced that Argentina and Chile could be on the way to a settlement of their long-running southern border dispute.

He said on Tuesday that a widely-publicized trip to the Vatican last week by Argentina's special ambassador, Señor Hugo Gobbi, was connected with "new ideas" and "progress" in the mediation that the Pope has been conducting into the dispute since 1979.

The conflict involves sovereignty over islands in the Beagle Channel, near the southern tip of the continent.

Señor Caputo said on Tuesday that he saw the possibility of a basic agreement with Chile "in a relatively short time". The dispute brought the coutries to the brink of war five years ago.

The Foreign minister would not confirm persistent reports in the local press that he and his *Chilean opposite number*, Señor Miguel Schweitzer, would hold a summit in Rome on the Beagle dispute.

President Raúl Alfonsín repeatedly promised during his election campaign to bring a swift end to the conflict. He accused the military regimes in both countries of using it to divert public attention from domestic political repression and economic deterioration.

EEC presidency changes hands

Britain holds key to future

The EEC is expected to run short if all the money it needs from next July. In this third and final article, our Brussels Correspondent, Ian Murray, *looks at the way in which Britain is seeking to exploit this financial crisis to win a lasting solution to its own budget problems.*

Part 3

Britain, to the *mounting frustration* of the other member states, now holds the key to the future of the EEC. It does so because the Community *must* run out of money and stagnate if Mrs Thatcher is not prepared to increase the amount paid over to the EEC budget.

Mrs Thatcher has set two very clear conditions for agreeing to any such increase. They are that agricultural spending must not only be contained but progressively decrease as a percentage of the total budget.

Secondly, she is insisting that member states should be required to pay over to the budget only a contribution which is both fair and in line with their ability to pay.

It was failure to meet these two conditions which led to the collapse of the Athens summit. British officials and ministers involved in the negotiations remain insistent that Britain was not, and is not, isolated. But Athens was a fiasco because Britain was not satisfied.

Mrs Thatcher: Strong stand expected.

The other member states have therefore to decide to what extent they are willing or able to meet Mrs Thatcher's conditions. Some still cling to the belief that she can be shamed into surrender because the sums of money are so small compared with what is at stake. But the indications are that Mrs Thatcher is even less inclined to turn on this issue than on any other.

For one thing she feels that the great weight of British popular support is behind her. The tougher her stand against the other member states, the more backing she believes she can expect. Feeling is so strong, in fact, that she may in the end be obliged to go against her better judgment and withhold contributions to the budget.

She would, of course, only do so because rebate money, due to *Britain, was not paid.* At the moment Britain claims that it is still owed £42m net from 1982, plus the £457m which has just been frozen by the European Parliament. If this were not paid by the end of the British financial year on March 31, there would be enormous political pressure to withhold at least something.

Given the extremely parlous state of Community finances, a halt to any part of Britain's £100m a month net contribution would plunge the EEC into debt immediately

At the same time Mrs Thatcher is aware that by September at the latest, and probably before, the Community will run out of money anyway. If she withholds payment, Britain will take the blame for the financial crisis, which will not help her *negotiating position. If she does* nothing, the agricultural policy will take the blame for the crisis, which will strengthen her negotiating position.

But that is to ignore the June direct elections to the European Parliament. If there is no settlement by then, and Britain is still paying its full contribution, the Labour Party can be sure to capitalize on it, and could pick up many more seats in the European Parliament than Mrs Thatcher would like.

So Mrs Thatcher can be expected to go flat out for real progress by the time the March summit takes place in Brussels. If enough can be done by then to persuade the Parliament to unfreeze the British rebate, she could believe herself to be home and dry. If the money remains in the freezer she will face a difficult dilemma.

Concluded

Mitterrand profile, page 8

El Salvador land reform gets six-month extension

San Salvador (NYT) – The Constituent Assembly has approved a six-month extension of part of the land redistribution programme, giving about 60,000 peasants another chance to buy land.

The extension applies to the third phase of the three-part programme, which allows peasants to buy up to 17.5 acres they previously rented. American advisers estimate that 117,000 peasants have the right to buy such land, but only 57,000 have done so despite two previous extensions.

Many of them have been threatened by landowners, or their land is in areas where fighting is taking place.

This legislative victory for landless peasants comes after the assembly voted earlier this month to halve the amount of land available for the second phase of the redistribution programme. This phase, which has not yet been carried out, would transfer the ownership of middle-sized farms to peasant cooperatives. Most of them grow coffee, cotton or sugar, the main export crops.

The land available under the third phase is used by peasants for growing basic grains.

Under the first phase the Government bought the largest farms, and is now in the process of turning them over to cooperatives.

The fight to extend the third phase was led by the Christian Democrats, supported by the Democratic Action Party and the conservative Authentic Salvadorean Institutional Party.

Spanish police seize two ETA supporters

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Bilbao police arrested a Basque politician for alleged justification of terrorism yesterday immediately after a news conference

A warrant had been issued on Tuesday for the arrest of Señor Jon Idigoras after he told journalists in Madrid on Monday that ETA attacks on police and soldiers could be considered legitimate

Señor Inaki Ruiz de Pineda was also arrested in Vitoria on Tuesday after making similar remarks

The unwelcome Invincible leaves Sydney

Sydney (Reuter) – The British aircraft carrier Invincible left Sydney harbour yesterday after a controversial visit which provoked a diplomatic dispute about Australia's nuclear weapons policy.

The Invincible, seeking dry-dock facilities for repairs, was heading first for the Western Australian port of Perth, according to diplomatic sources. But no one said where she would go next for work on a damaged propeller shaft

A Navy spokesman declined to comment on reports that repairs would be carried out in Singapore.

Kabul stages anti-US protest

Islamabad (AP) – The start of the fifth year of Soviet occupation of Afghanistan was marked by an anti-American demonstration in Kabul, according to Western diplomats here.

It was staged by the Soviet-backed Babrak Karmal regime on Christmas Day.

Soviet troops crossed into Afghanistan to back up the faltering communist regime there on December 27, 1979. There are now reported to be 105,000 Soviet troops bogged down in a military stalemate with Muslim insurgents.

Sources said an estimated 20,000 pro-regime demonstrators, looking "glum and unenthusiastic" because of being forced to march in severe cold, wound their way past the American Embassy. The regime-controlled media claimed there were 100,000 demonstrators chanting slogans against American involvement in Grenada and Central America.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry also held a news conference the same afternoon to "protest against US aggression in Afghanistan".

Tight security in Kabul, with most of the important intersections guarded by Soviet soldiers, did not allow a promised "spectacular action" of resistance on December 27. However, the mujahidin claim to have killed five Soviet soldiers by blowing up their vehicle on December 23 in the Khairkhana district of Kabul.

They also attacked a Soviet-Afghan military convoy on the night of December 23-24 at Salang tunnel, the main overland route connecting Afghanistan with the Soviet Union, apparently leaving three Soviet soldiers dead and one tank destroyed. They also hit another convoy in the Khinjan Pass, which runs parallel to the Salang tunnel, on December 21. The resistance seized four lorries loaded with food.

In the town of Parwan in Parwan province, north-west of Kabul, eight Government troops guarding a school were killed in a resistance attack during the second week of December, the sources claim.

The insurgents, according to the diplomats, attacked the headquarters of the Afghan secret service (KHAD) in Jalalabad, in the first week of this month. They killed up to seven Army officers and wounded two. Two or three secret service officials were captured.

The city of Ghazni, south-west of Kabul, was heavily bombed by the Russians on December 17, killing 35 civilians. The bombing is understood to have been in retaliation to operations by rebels from that area.

Diplomats also reported that the head of the Government administration in the north-eastern province of Laghman was killed by the resistance on December 12.

● DELHI: Afghan officials recently admitted to visiting Western journalists in Kabul that there are 500 political prisoners in Afghanistan, according to a Western diplomatic source here (AP reports).

The report also said that Soviet officials told Moscow-based journalists that there were 600 Soviet political advisers in Afghanistan. The figures were given earlier this month to the seven reporters – three West Germans, two Italians, one Mexican and one American – who were believed to be the first group of Western journalists invited to Afghanistan since the Soviet invasion.

A report from Moscow said the journalists visited the Pul-i-Charkhi prison in Kabul and were told 250 political prisoners were held there.

Officials remarked that the number was low compared to the level of 17,000 during the rule of former President Hafizullah Amin, killed when the Russians ousted him in 1979 and installed the Karmal regime.

The Russians told the journalists they could "put down insurrections" in Afghanistan quickly because they had much experience "in the pacification of bandits" in places where conditions were far worse.

Surprise Aquino witness

Manila (Reuter) – A Philippine Airlines techician came out of hiding yesterday to testify that Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader, was not shot by the killer named by the military.

Mr Ramon Balang, aged 28, a ground engineer, appeared at a special session of an inquiry into the Aquino assasination. He said he had been hiding for several days since learning that military investigators were looking for him.

Last weekend, another Manila airport maintenance man said in a US television interview that it would have been impossible for the alleged assassin, Rolando Galman, to shoot Aquino.

The military has insisted that Galman, whom they identified as a hired gunman and communist guerrilla leader, was the man who shot the former senator as he was being escorted from the aircraft that brought him back to the Philippines on August 21.

Mr Balang told the hearing he saw Galman standing with soldiers assigned to secure the tarmac where Aquino's aircraft parked when it arrived from Taipei. "I do not think Galman had the opportunity to shoot Aquino," Mr Balang told the five-member commission.

THE ARTS

Irving Wardle finds grounds for hope in London's theatrical year

A bright side to the balance sheet

My friend Trixie was in London over the autumn, on the trip from Romania she gets every three years. She is a translator. It is her boast that her version of *The Rainmaker* was the first Western piece to reach the East European stage after the war. She also prepared a white-face adaptation of *Sizwe Bansi is Dead* for production in a Romanian oil town where it evidently made as much sense as in its native Port Elizabeth. At home in Bucharest she keeps up with the latest British plays; but texts are no substitute for the real thing, and each time she returns to the London theatre it is as if the clock had stopped since her last visa ran out.

She set off enthusiastically on her round of the subsidized houses, the West End and the outlying repertories; and, at the end of it all, she summed up her dejected impressions in one word: "slick".

That is a small word to cover a mass of work. On the other hand, if you have spent a year in a deteriorating climate, it may take an outsider to point out that the weather used to be better. Also, there is much to be said in favour of slickness. For a start, it means that things are booming. Nobody is going to get slick unless he has a market to feed. And, so far as the theatre is concerned, it is a guarantee that the artist is in contact with the public. Better a slick professional product than a laboriously hand-crafted ego-trip. And, without the steady, humdrum process of business as usual, there would be no setting for anything extraordinary to happen.

Looking back on 1983, my chief sense is one of relief. For the first time since the mid-Seventies, there has been no immediate sense of approaching catastrophe. In London, some managements have come to the end of the road. The Mermaid, the Shaw and the Roundhouse are no longer in the same hands; but arguably they were due for a change of direction anyway. The RSC is sending up distress signals from the Barbican; but at least its plight is officially recognized, and its financial administration approved. Warning noises have been heard from the Arts Council, but so far there has been no major blood-letting, and corporate sponsorship continues to spread its safety net. Even the West End has survived its VAT scalping and bounced back into life.

Shabby and antiquated as some commercial houses may be, at least they are all back in business; and the London Transport poster of a glittering, packed-out theatre street, which seemed such a sick joke last Christmas, now roughly corresponds to what you see in St Martin's Lane.

Halfway through Dennis Potter's recent play, *Sufficient Carbohydrate*, a character quotes a chunk of Keats and then says that he prefers a good balance sheet. He could be speaking for the profession. After its precarious existence of the past decade, the theatre has understandably given top priority to its own survival. The demoralized old routine of eccentric hits and flops, stage-bound casting, rude box-office staff and complaints against punitive taxation is giving way to the new world of go-ahead marketing, computerized ticket and stand-by sales and packaged products each with its built-in television star. If there is any single pointer towards the future, it is Ed Mervish's Old Vic: restored to full Victorian glamour while also running its Credit Card Hotline and subscription bargains along the lines of the discount store on which Mr Mervish based his Toronto fortunes.

Ingrained British snobbery has been proved wrong often enough in this department (witness the career of Roy Thomson) for us to have learnt to greet this kind of enterprise with more than a lordly sneer. Why should theatre not be sold like meat or Mediterranean holidays? As much damage has been done to it in the name of "art" and "culture" as has ever been done by the philistines.

It is only when you look at Mr Mervish's advance programme – a *Mikado* imported from Stratford, Ontario, revivals of *Serjeant Musgrave's Dance* and *The Boy Friend* – that the welcome freezes on the lips. It is not that these are likely to be bad shows (*The Mikado*, when I saw it two years ago, was a knockout); but that they are there on the basis of their proved reputation and market value. Would Tim Rice's *Blondel* now be boring the pants off the musical public were it not for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Evita*?

Having raised the spectre of a theatrical hypermarket, I must acknowledge a few alternative initiatives. For a start, there is Mr Mervish's Old Vic rival, Andrew Lloyd-Webber, who embarked on management with *Daisy Pulls It Off*, a piece by an unknown writer, triumphantly transferred to the Globe with only one change in its original Southampton company. There is the Theatre of Comedy, a consortium of leading comic actors, now controlling the Shaftesbury and the Ambassadors, and planning to embrace the whole comic repertory from Shaw and basic British farce to new plays and off-Broadway imports. Also there is the Plowright-Anderson faction, a self-appointed National-Theatre-in-Exile, which periodically re-ignites the classical torch in productions like the Haymarket *Cherry Orchard*.

As yet, none of these groups has got properly into its stride; but the signs so far suggest that they may develop into new power centres offering an alternative to the Mervish operation and setting the pace for commercial innovation.

No such signs of fresh initiative have appeared in the subsidized sector, and it is here if anywhere that slickness has taken over. The RSC and the National Theatre have traversed the past 12 months like comfortably appointed Jumbos flying on automatic pilot. Their course is set, their public is loyal; and it seems that those in charge are tired of navigating the same old routes. The Stratford season (represented at its best by John Caird's melancholy *Twelfth Night*) was mainly the work of junior directors, with John Barton arriving at the last minute with a studio version of Calderon's *Life is a Dream*. Likewise, at the National Theatre, classic after routine classic was fired off by the boundlessly energetic Michael Bogdanov while Sir Peter Hall, like Trevor Nunn and Terry Hands, was looking round for new worlds to conquer.

Much to their credit, both the RSC and the National have resisted the temptation to bury new work in low-budget studio productions; and gave elaborate main-house showings to a succession of "public theatre" playwrights. But – with the exception of David Edgar's *Maydays* (I missed Ron Daniels's Barbican production, but found the text deeply impressive) – David Hare's *A Map of the World*, Christopher Hampton's *Tales from Hollywood* and (at the Royal Court) Howard Brenton's *Genius* all emerged as dutiful essays on important themes, rather than urgent works with the power to touch the public on an exposed nerve.

Studio productions are another matter; and it has been a continual shock throughout the year to exchange the razzle-dazzle of *Cyrano de Bergerac* or *Jean Seberg* in the main house for impassioned authenticity of work like Athol Fugard's *Master Harold and the Boys* or Nicholas Wright's *The Custom of the Country* down in the bowels of the same building. Apart from the fact that such productions have yielded some of the year's most dazzling acting – Antony Sher's Tartuffe, Tony Haygarth's tongue-tied client in *Glengarry Glen Ross* – the big-house studios link up with the fringe as a platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to nominate any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyrs' Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, *1984* is likely to spring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Clear* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep* – both held over from 1982.

Photographs by Donald Cooper



Roger Heathcott and Alexandra Mathie (right) in *Daisy Pulls It Off*, triumphantly transferred from Southampton to the Globe; and the impassioned authority of John Kani in *Master Harold and the Boys* down in the bowels of the National Theatre

Television

Addled brains

The Case of the Frightened Lady, adapted from Edgar Wallace by Victor Pemberton, on BBC2 last night, might just as aptly have been called "The Case of the Mad Lord", or "The Mad Lady" or even "The Thick-Headed Policemen". The whole Lebanon household, round which it centred, were as nutty as fruitcakes and anyone could have knocked off the chauffeur and the sinister family doctor, even the policemen who were stupid enough to have run them down on their way in.

It was a dated kind of thing and such humour as was attempted fell heavy as lead. By the time it was revealed that it was the young Lord Lebanon who was reducing the family overheads with a thuggee cloth, it did not seem to matter a lot. He blew his addled brains out as his dominating mum, dominatingly played by Virginia McKenna – though I knew she was nice really – walked towards him to take away his toy and pop him back in the padded cell where Daddy had expired.

Tim Woodward was the loony lord and Elizabeth Carvic his bride-to-be and the frightened lady. Some of the fear may have been due to the script.

Channel 4 proferred a breath of fresh air, Melvyn Bragg beginning his saga on Land of the Lakes which continues tonight and tomorrow night – a rock-buster in fact. There he was treading his native Cumbrian fells, which can be bracing as well as beautiful.

I like Mr Bragg. He does the best arts programme and always seems a diffident, unassuming kind of chap with a healthy, unashamed curiosity. Windswept, he looked strangely ill at ease, like a man about to greet a prospective buyer of his house knowing all the time that the boiler was about to burst.

It became apparent that he was burdened by time as, I suspect, those who travel with him are likely to be. He began 600 million years back and raced forward through various geological developments until he said, I thought with relief, "we are down to a million years now".

Actually, and fortunately, we got closer than that to talk to stonewallers and farmers, and heard from a couple of professors and the climber Chris Bonington. All, like Mr Bragg, were keen on the Lake District, which won the hearts of Coleridge, Constable, Southey, Wordsworth, Turner and De Quincey and still captures 14 million visitors a year. Mr Bragg is quite right to be proud of it; rather privileged, too, to have three hours to demonstrate it.

Dennis Hackett

● Sir John Pritchard is to remain as chief conductor at the Cologne Opera until 1991. His new contract was signed just before Christmas.

Dance in the United States

Season of change–and promise

Dance in America is in a period of change – in many ways, radical change. The current season has, so far, been sluggish, but many American companies are apparently in transitional phases.

The Joffrey Ballet is but one example. After years of being based in New York, it has now become what is fashionably referred to as bi-coastal, and is to be shared by New York and Los Angeles. In time it seems – if things work out as expected – the company will become more and more West Coast orientated, and will in time move its school and adminstration away from New York to the other side of the country.

Nowadays the company only appears for a month in New York each year – in its heyday it danced two six-week seasons – and this winter perhaps it did seem slightly different, perhaps trendier, in keeping with its new Hollywood-style image. Whatever the reason the dancing – and the company is today a young, strong classic ensemble – proved markedly more rewarding than the new ballets.

Another company probably dancing, at least technically, better than ever is the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary in a New York season at the City Center and is strongly rumoured to make its first appearance at the Metropolitan Opera House next summer.

A change of location or a silver jubilee are interesting rites of passage, but two of America's companies, the two leading classic troupes, New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre, are facing changes that are certainly potentially traumatic. In Britain the Royal Ballet, Ballet Rambert and even the younger London Festival Ballet have all undergone changes of directorship. Norman Morrice, for example, is the fourth director of the Royal Ballet.

In the United States most dance companies, both classic and modern, have until very recently had first-generation leadership. Two modern-dance companies, the Jose Limon troupe and Joyce Trisler's Dancecompany, were the first to continue under new artistic management. Now these problems are facing Ballet Theatre and City Ballet.

Although strictly speaking Lucia Chase and Oliver Smith did not found Ballet Theatre – that was overseen by a remarkable young visionary, the late Richard Pleasant – they were the ones to place their imprint on the company; and, when they were replaced by Mikhail Baryshnikov three years ago, there were many problems. These came to a head during the past summer, culminating in a financial crisis, with Mr Baryshnikov offering his resignation, only for him to be persuaded by the company's board of directors to stay on at least until the end of the current season.

How its problems are being resolved will become more apparent after its season at Washington's Kennedy Center, where it is premièring a new work by Twyla Tharp, and a lavish new production of *Cinderella*.

Meanwhile the transition, or the changing of the guard, at City Ballet appears to be going far more smoothly. Even before George Balanchine's death this summer, preparations had been made for the artistic succession. It was agreed that Peter Martins and Jerome Robbins should be joint ballet-masters-in-chief, with Mr Martins in prime charge of the day-to-day running of the company, assisted by the ballet staff led by John Taras, and Mr Robbins as chief choreeographer. Lincoln Kirstein remains as general director.

When the company appeared at Covent Garden in August London was, in effect, what could be thought of as the company's fourth phase. The first phase began on January 2, 1934, when Balanchine, Kirstein and Vladimir Dimitriev opened the School of American Ballet at 637 Madison Avenue in New York City. That first phase lasted throughout the formative years of New City Ballet, long before it actually took on the name of City Ballet and acquired the limited patronage of the city, with a home at City Center.

Phase two began on July 10, 1950, when City Ballet opened a six-week season at Covent Garden. It was the first time the company had been overseas, it was the longest continuous season it had ever given, and it marked the emergence of the troupe as a major international force. From then on progress was rapid.

Phase three is easily documented – it began with the opening of the New York State Theater at Lincoln Center in April 1964, and the consequent move of City Ballet from City Center to Lincoln Center, a move in some ways analagous to that of the Sadler's Wells Ballet in 1946, when it moved to Covent Garden. City Ballet, also, had acquired a new home of operatic dimensions.

This third phase ran through last season, with the death of Balanchine. It was a phase that saw many new works, special festivals devoted to Stravinsky, Ravel and Tchaikovsky, a permanent repertory established by Balanchine and his associate, Jerome Robbins, playing Ivanov to his Petipa, and the development of a company of more than 100 dancers.

Even before Balanchine died – his illness was a fairly long one – arrangements were being made for the company's continuance, and the question of the artistic succession was decided. Even by the end of last season – immediately after Balanchine's death and before the European tour – certain changes could be dimly discerned. But it was the tour that helped set the new pattern, and Covent Garden, for the second time in the company's history, marked a decisive turning-point.

The company, like the others, is probably now dancing better than it has ever danced before. It is a big company – perhaps too big, because some of the older dancers rarely get on stage, as the emphasis moves towards the younger generation. So far there has not been a new work – in January it seems there may be a new, large-scale ballet by Martins to Schubert music, but so far the season has been one of entrenchment.

The new management is committed to restore a number of Balanchine ballets that have been absent from the repertory for a few years. A start has been made already, with *Jewels* (given a new, but still paste, setting) and *Raymonda Variations*. There is talk of a Balanchine festival in the summer – although how anyone would notice the festive difference is difficult to imagine, for City Ballet is always a Balanchine festival.

The style of dancing – very slightly – looks as if it is changing. There was always a disparity, which many people pretended not to notice, between Balanchine's school and his company, and their way of dancing. In the company Balanchine called for a freer, less regimented style; he did not like rigidly straight lines, and felt that absolute precision took something away from dance's humanity. Sometimes this could be misunderstood, with results that were occasionally floppy. In the future I suspect that the company – while never trying to emulate the Rockettes of Radio City Music Hall – will perform with a touch more cohesion.

Of course, eventually, the big change will be in repertory. Both Robbins and Martins have indicated that they have no wish to be curators of a museum, and that City Ballet must pursue the actively creative course that has characterized its past.

Partly with this role in mind, and his new responsibilities, Martins at the age of 37 has retired from dancing. The first part of the present season has been a series of farewell appearances, culminating in his final appearance at the 1,000th performance of Balanchine's production of *The Nutcracker*. Also to mark the occasion – and following in Balanchine's own footsteps – Robbins made his debut as Dr Drosselmeyer.

Clive Barnes

Theatre

Babes in the Wood

New End

It was a dejected group of villagers who crept out from behind two painted screens to celebrate Nottingham's Goose Fair by having their faces ground anew by the Sheriff and their lines obliterated by a houseful of wailing children. But any impulse to side with the company against Tuesday's matinée audience was extinguished by the first sight of an American Robin Hood (Erin Donovan) accosting Maid Marian as a highwayman and then bursting into a mercilessly prolonged love song as soon as he had a good look at her.

You can deduce some of the things that are wrong with Stewart Permutt's mini-panto from that little scene. It mixes up story-telling with burlesque, it is full of nervous asides for the grown-ups, and Trevor T. Smith's songs go on and on long after they have made their point.

As far as the story goes, we find Robin heroically setting off to save the babes and leading his search party in the wrong direction. Meanwhile, two wind-up rabbits have popped up through one of Camilla Ashforth's cardboard knolls to bestrew the victims with two or three leaves while, back at the castle, the Sheriff is gleefully rubbing his hands at the murderous approach of midnight as the clock on his mantlepiece is pointing to ten minutes to six. Not much suspense there, you may think, and you would be right.

Zealous to give the kids a good laugh, Mr Permutt goes to town on the Dame routines, manfully shouldered by David Foxxe, a fearless comedian who drives headlong into any suicidal road-block of clichés and mirthless gags, confident of emerging unscathed on the other side if he keeps his foot down. Mr Foxxe gives us a school theme based on the old chestnut of the fiver versus the piece of chalk, a kitchen scene where he stirs nuts and dates (from tool box and calendar) into his cake mixture and an awkward-squad scene with a homosexual punchline. "It's meant to be funny", said my nine-year-old, "so it isn't funny."

She was not referring to Richard Howard and Chuck Julian, two cowardly assassins selected from the Yellow Pages, who do develop a strong comic partnership, particularly where they reduce each other to tears in a duel with soft hats over the murder weapon. Otherwise it fills me with despair that a small community house, free from the pressures of the West End, should be offering children this kind of trash.

Irving Wardle

Blatant offence to a German contemporary: detail from *The Last Kiss of Romeo and Juliet*

Galleries

Sensational view of sensuality

Hayez, 1791-1882

Palazzo Reale and Accademia di Brera, Milan

Francesco Hayez is virtually unknown in this country, although he was modestly represented in the Council of Europe *Age of Neo-Classicism* exhibition in London in 1972. In fact, Italian painting of the nineteenth century is largely uncharted territory and many of the paintings in this revelatory exhibition (until February 27) have been either rescued from museum storerooms or winkled out of private collections by its indefatigable organisers, Maria Cristina Gozzoli and Fernando Mazzocca.

Hayez was born in Venice in 1791; his father came from Valenciennes and his mother from Murono. His precocity is indicated by the fact that at the age of seven he entered the studio of Francesco Maggiotto, son of Domenico, who had been a pupil of Piazzetta. In 1805 he won first prize at the Accademia in Venice for drawing from the nude and fours years later, with the encouragement of Count Leopoldo Cicognara, he entered for and won a scholarship to Rome, where he was immediately accepted as a pupil by Antonio Canova, the foremost scultor of the age and the embodiment of triumphant Neoclassicism. Having been made Marchese d'Ischia by the Pope, Canova converted the pension attached to the title into an annual prize for a study from the nude, to be awarded by the Accademia di San Luca; the theme for the year 1815 was a *Victorious Athlete* and Hayez won with his entry, which still belongs to the academy and is exhibited at Milan. It is worth recalling that one of the unsuccessful competitors was Ingres.

The direct influence of Canova is evident in all the early works of Hayez, such as the extraordinary *Shipwrecked Ajax* (Brescia, private collection), in which the naked hero struggles with a mountainous wave, and the intensely sensual *Penitent Magdalen in the Desert* (1825; Milan, private collection), the inspiration for which, now in the Museo di Sant'Agostino, is exhibited alongside. By this time Hayez had settled in Milan where he was to spend the rest of his life, attached to the Accademia di Brera, where he taught for 60 years. In 1820 he had produced the first Romantic history picture in Italian art, depicting *Pietro Rossi* (Milan, private collection), an obscure medieval subject which had nevertheless strong political overtones for contemporaries and was immediately acquired by the Marchese Giorgio Pallavicino Trivulzio, a Milanese aristocrat of pronounced liberal views.

A similarly "political" work, *The Oath of the Lampugnani* (1826-29; Brera) was commissioned by the Contessa Teresa Stampa Borri, who was herself portrayed twice by Hayez, in a *Family Group* (1822-23; Brera) and again 15 years later, when she had become the second wife of the writer Alessandro Manzoni, whose portrait is also exhibited (both Brera). The artist's portraits are among his most impressive productions which, unlike his history pictures, have never fallen completely out of fashion. One of the most striking is the *Principessa di Sant'Animo* (1840-44; Naples, Museo di San Martino), the singularly plain daughter of an English admiral whose lugubrious face, framed by dangling corkscrews of hair, emerges from a dazzling concoction of pale grey watered silk and lace, set against a red plush armchair. The singer *Matilde Juva Branca* (1851; Milan, Civica Galleria d'Arte Moderna) wears her ringlets with a difference, while the *Principessa Cristina de Belgiojoso Trivulzio* (1830-31; Florence, private collection) combines aristocratic elegance with an almost provocative sensuality.

It was the blatant sensuality of his *Last Kiss of Romeo and Juliet* (1823; Tremezzo, Villa Carlotta) that offended a contemporary German critic, who described Romeo as having the physique of a porter and considered Juliet's slippers a solecism. However, others praised its "modernity" and its fidelity to the spirit of Shakespeare. Nevertheless, ten years later the artist produced a smaller version (Milan, private collection) in which the lovers are not actually kissing.

Most of the historical paintings and the portraits are hung in the Sala elle Cariatidi of the Palazzo Reale, which was partly destroyed by bombing in 1943 and, since it was once covered by a ceiling painting by Hayez celebrating the rule of the Emperor Ferdinand I of Austria, is sadly appropriate. Equally so, but more happily in view of Hayez's long association with the Brera, is the collocation there of his "academic" painting. Mostly of religious subjects, the often highly realistic treatment can be disconcerting, although at its finest, in *Jacob and Esau* (1844; Brescia, Civica Pinacoteca Tosio Martinengo), it works wonderfully.

In the last section of the exhibition, the painter's sense of his own impending death combines with his disillusionment with contemporary politics to produce a series of melancholic females who merely succeed in looking silky. His final gesture is however, something of a *coup de théâtre*: using Delacroix's famous picture (now in the Wallace Collection) as his point of departure, he depicts *The Last Moments of the doge Marin Faliero*, giving his own features to the eponymous victim. It is an ambiguous farewell to what to outsiders must have seemed a brilliantly successful career.

Jeffery Daniels

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SPECTRUM

By the left, slow march

The Times profile
François Mitterrand

When François Mitterrand was elected President of France on May 10, 1981 he stood at a rare pinnacle of achievement. He had brought to its culmination a political career which began in 1945 when he was the youngest of de Gaulle's ministers. He had also changed the whole political landscape of France. He had rebuilt the Socialist party from ruins (it took only 6 per cent of the vote in 1969) to become by far the largest party in France, with complete state power within its grasp. For the first six months of 1984 the state that he heads assumes the presidency of the EEC.

The scale of his achievement is still the dominating fact of Mitterrand's presidency. He grasped earlier than anyone else the way in which the directly elective presidency would produce a powerful coat-tail effect for those who ran well in it.

He also grasped that the key to a good socialist showing was an alliance with the (then far stronger) French communists. He stuck to this strategy, first put into effect in 1965, through thick and thin, despite the firm conventional wisdom that it could lead only to defeat. Instead Mitterrand first polarized French politics around the left alliance; then pulled enough centrist voters towards the socialists to allow them to overtake the communists before humbling them. The way in which Mitterrand simply outthought his opponents and was willing to work his way through 16 years in the wilderness to win, brought forth from the right the admiring recognition of his almost Gaullian stature.

This long march towards power also had marked effects on Mitterrand's political personality. The French expect a certain gravitas of those who would be president, a dignity and hauteur. Mitterrand took to this like a duck to water, for he is a naturally reserved man. He has few really close personal confidants and spends more of his time thinking and writing than he does talking – indeed, he hopes to be chiefly remembered as a writer.

There were other reasons for this reserve, too. As the socialists overtook the communists the latter railed furiously and often personally against Mitterrand. He was only too aware that they were looking for excuses to break off the left alliance and was determined not to offer them any. So, time and again, he just turned the other cheek and found great use for the ambivalent silence and the delphic utterance. Finally, the government-controlled radio and television, and much of the press, were outrageously partisan in their attempts to discredit him. A firm insistence on privacy was often his best defence. Even so, to maintain a cool and level head while standing up to such a barrage required an elephantine stamina and patience.

One result was that, even after his 16-year campaign, many Frenchmen were surprisingly unsure what sort of man they had elected. The new presidential style was underlaid by a wish to restate the old republican virtues, and to insist on the self-confident legitimacy of the new regime. Moreover, Mitterrand immediately made public a doctor's report on his own health and a full statement of his personal finances: the new president would be *seen* to be subject to the law. At the same time he brusquely waved aside the national cult which had insisted that de Gaulle's old office in the Elysée should be preserved as a sort of national shrine; on his first day Mitterrand moved into this holy of holies and has worked in it since. He refused though to live in the regal splendour of the Elysée, preferring to commute to work from his small Paris flat. But he remained an austere figure, and he dominated his government utterly. (When ministers visit him at his country retreat in Nièvre they have, perforce, to fall into crocodile file behind Mitterrand on the long country walks that he, as an almost rhapsodic nature lover, is much given to.)

His greatest weakness was relative ignorance of economics. In particular, he failed to realize just how tightly the French economy is constrained within the EEC and the European Monetary System.

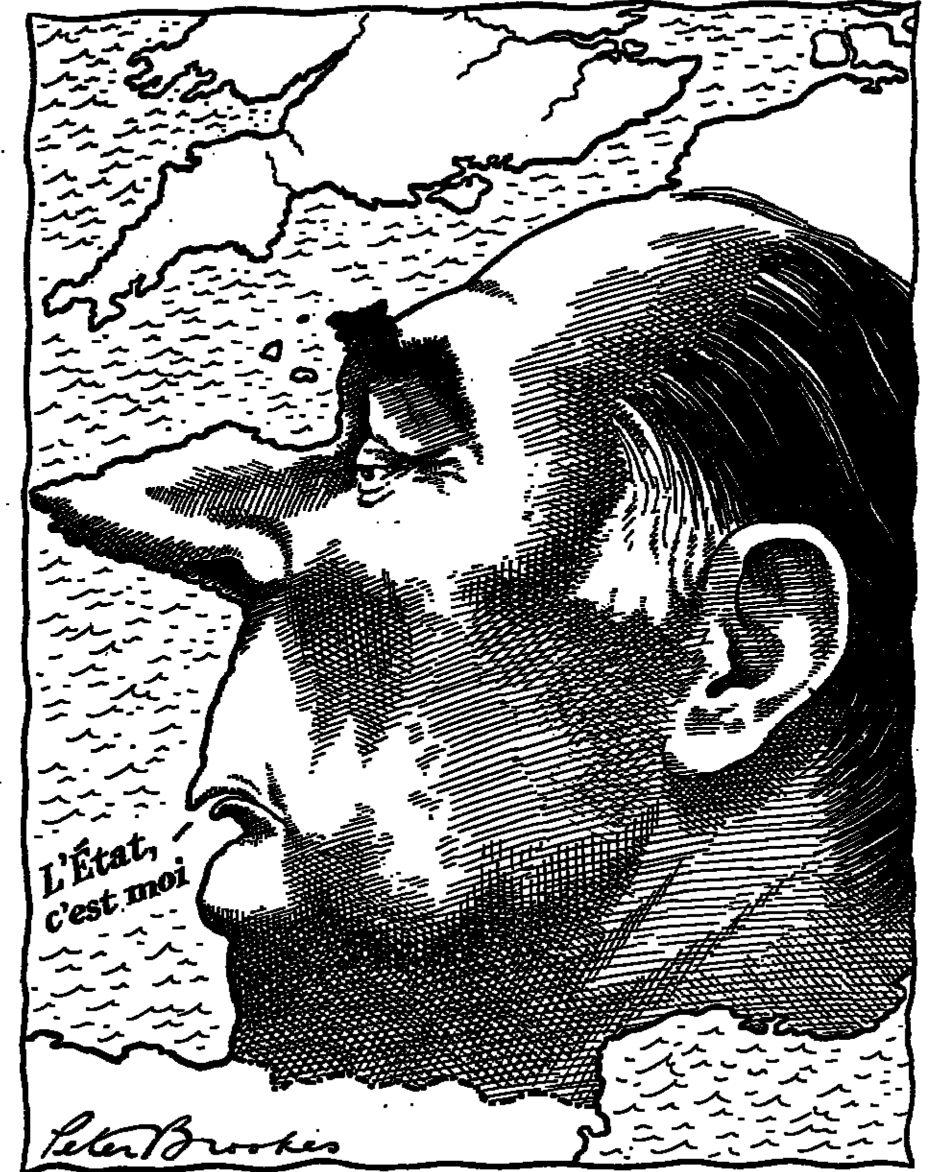
In the 1970s attempts at economic expansion had to be cut short as each time they produced a flood of German imports, a plunging trade balance, recurrent devaluations of the franc against the deutschmark. And Giscard's decision to join the EMS meant the franc could no longer float down and EMS consent was required for any devaluation at all. Worse still, in spite of its eight separate devaluations since 1960, the franc was by 1981 more overvalued than ever.

Mitterrand ought to have devalued steeply and at once – and perhaps quit the EMS – whatever else he was going to do. If, in addition, France was going to try an expansionist spurt, that devaluation would have to be all the steeper and would probably need to be accompanied either by protectionist measures or by cutting internal consumption.

It is doubtful if Mitterrand grasped how stark his choices were in 1981. At all events, such considerations were brushed aside. The franc was defended at its old value. By October 1981 sweeping nationalization had produced a forced devaluation of 8.8 per cent against the deutschmark – universally agreed to be insufficient.

Unabashed, Mitterrand pressed ahead with an avalanche of legislation: abolition of the death penalty, university reform, the extension of industrial democracy, leasehold reform, reform even of the monumental Code Napoleon, and, not least, abolition of military tribunals. Public opinion was staggered at the sheer size and ambition of what was to be attempted. Not a few had quietly assumed that Mitterrand was too much the old fox to do literally what he had promised. If precisely for that reason Mitterrand was determined to show that he was a man of his word.

This programme ran into trouble from a number of directions. The Constitutional Council (packed with old right-wing politicians) declared several measures unconstitutional and even found the (by no means ungenerous) nationalization terms not generous enough. Despite the left's fury, Mitterrand largely increased the terms.



The senate (where the right has a permanent majority) also awoke from its slumber and fought several reforms to a standstill. In parliament the right showed an unmatched skill and aggression as it fought the new measures line by line. Despite his firm promises not to do so Mitterrand was soon compelled to use the various "undemocratic" procedures allowed to the president to cut short the debates.

In the face of such obstacles the left might have benefited from public sympathy had it not made its own position far worse. Too many ministers lacked managerial or administrative experience. The feuding between factions never really stopped and sometimes ministers slanged one another in public. The prime minister, Mauroy, was a perennially bumbling figure, lacking any real authority.

Mitterrand's own responsibility in all this was considerable. He undermined the government's authority by his habit of meeting an inner group of party henchmen for confidential breakfasts at which key business was discussed in the absence of the premier and finance minister. Even the inner party group could fear the influence of Mitterrand's private Elysée advisers. Mauroy's own authority was so weak that it was noticeable that crises blew up whenever Mitterrand was out of the country – Mauroy alone could not resolve them. Within the government Mitterrand tolerated incompetence for too long. The Minister for Overseas France resigned in fury when he found the African leaders were, as in the bad old days, making their deals direct with shadowy figures in the Elysée – part of the old masonic network of which Mitterrand himself is a leading member.

By May 1982 the chickens had come home to roost. A second (10 per cent) devaluation was announced along with a first dose of economic austerity. This was clearly inadequate to deal with the soaring trade deficit – which, by January 1983, was running at a 115 billion franc annual rate. Something clearly had to be done.

It wasn't. Instead, with its eyes on the March municipal elections the government swore that all was well and that no further "rigour" would be necessary. The minute the elections were over the government admitted the crisis and a major shake-up took place. The franc was devalued for a third time.

There is no disguising the fact that the government has been badly blown off course. In good part it has deserved its unpopularity through its own muddles and lack of firm, competent authority. But most of all its unpopularity is due to the fact that bourgeois France has never really accepted the legitimacy of a truly alternative regime. It is still far from clear that France can be governed against its bourgeoisie.

In July 1983 Mitterrand gave a perhaps over-frank interview where he declared that he "made a mistake in not devaluing in May 1981. You tell me Blum made the same mistake as me (during the 1930s Popular Front), but for him it was more excusable. Only Jobert (a Gaullist maverick) encouraged me in that direction. Confusedly, I felt he was right, but Mauroy and Delors persuaded me against it and Rocard said nothing. From spring 1982 on I wanted policies of rigour ... Everybody foretold a return to growth in 1983 and to be honest I lacked the expertise to say they were wrong ... It's true, we dreamt a little in 1981 and underestimated the length of the international crisis, just as I overestimated the goodwill of the Americans. I no longer expect anything of Reagan."

Mitterrand has never been one to be so frank by accident. Clearly he had been reassessing the left's record in somewhat better mood. He was not pleased by the way in which he, with his reputation for long-term strategic thinking, had ended up with hand-to-mouth policies. Moreover he was boxed in. He had tried to shelter behind Mauroy, letting him take the brunt of unpopularity.

Not only had this not worked, but the communists, who get on well with Mauroy, were insisting that no other premier would be acceptable to them. Delors, the great talisman of business confidence, and Rocard, the most popular man in the government, were regarded as unsackable. Mitterrand wanted more room for manoeuvre. It was no accident that his interview roundly criticized all three of these "indispensable" men. Or that the only minister singled out for praise, Jobert, had left the government some time before. The time had come, Mitterrand was signalling, for a powerful and Gaullist reassertion of presidential authority.

This is indeed what we have seen, with a strikingly Gaullist series of foreign policy initiatives in Chad, Lebanon and the EEC.

All these initiatives show an almost regal assertion of presidential power. The right has found itself wrong-footed and the president's popularity has recovered strongly in the polls. Clearly, Mitterrand has decided that he, and he alone, can now save the left.

Mitterrand still has two trumps. First, the right is split and it looks as though it will be forced, *faute de mieux*, to rally behind Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader. Chirac is so widely distrusted and feared that many centrist Frenchmen may find it hard to choose him, however much they dislike Mitterrand.

Secondly, Mitterrand has time. There is a socialist majority in parliament until June 1986 and he remains president until May 1988. He has now enacted almost the whole of his programme so there is little left for parliament to do.

Everything now depends on Mitterrand himself. More than ever he is the heart of the entire experiment. At times in the past two years he has shown flashes of the old Fourth Republican wheeler-dealer that many think he still is: a fatal trait. What the government needs now more than anything is that he provide a firm, tough, still centre, that he show all the patience and calmness under fire that he displayed in his 16-year march towards power. It is a tall order of an old man: and even that may not be enough. But the French have already seen – in de Gaulle – that it is a great mistake to underestimate the determination, stamina and strategic subtlety of a leader. The game is far from over.

R W Johnson

The author, a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, published The Long March of the French Left *in 1981.*

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moreover... Miles Kington

Thanks for the memory

There must be millions of my younger readers who have received word processors in their stockings for Christmas and now haven't the faintest idea what to do with them, except, perhaps, start a free giveaway comic in Stockport. The right answer is, of course, to mass produce your thank-you letters now.

As an incentive I have devised five all-purpose thank you letters which you can simply feed into your word processor and then produce as many copies as you like.

Dear Granny,

Thank you for the super book token. It was super. I went to the bookshop to get a super book with it, but the bookshop was still closed for Christmas. So I swapped my book token with John for the toy guitar you gave him, which he did not want. I did not want it either, but I knew Simon wanted one. So I sold it to him for three pounds. Which I used to buy an ambulance and two stretchers off Rosemary, plus two blood-stained bandages, so you can see it was a super book token.

Dear Uncle Charlie,

Thanks for the super calculator. This is one of the great new ones that you can plug into telephones and things, so that you can monitor all incoming and outgoing calls to prevent them being too expensive, etc. Dad said jokingly, "Any chance you can plug into my bank and get my overdraft wiped out?" Well, it took a bit of working out but eventually I discovered that I could work this all right and Dad now has no overdraft in the bank. What he also now has, thanks to your calculator, is £3 million in the bank.

Your loving nephew

Dear Auntie,

Thanks for the diary, it was just what I wanted. Mummy gave me a diary too, so did John and Uncle Charlie and someone whose name I couldn't read and somebody else whose label fell off before Christmas. I am now thinking of becoming a diary collector. All the diaries are different. At least the outsides are different with titles like Schoolgirls' Diary, Stamp Collectors' Diary, Train Spotters' Diary, and Princess Di's Diary, but all the insides are the same. Isn't that interesting?

Love,

Dear Uncle Ned,

How are things in New Zealand? Great to hear from you. We had a lovely Christmas. Nobody was sick very much. Mum and Dad had a big fight on Boxing Day but it was hard to tell who won. Uncle Percy was here on Christmas Day and got drunk. He woke up during the Queen's broadcast and said loudly: "I know that woman! Must be an old girlfriend of mine!" And went to sleep again, also loudly. Cousin Kathleen came all the way from London and we all gave her gloves again. PS Thanks for your present. What is it? Some of us say it is for strangling sheep with in New Zealand.

Love,

Dear Uncle Tom,

You remember last year you gave me a machinegun which was very noisy? And dad got so cross that he broke it on Boxing Day? And you weren't very sympathetic? But you said I should have had it insured? And I didn't know what insurance was? So you had to explain it to me?

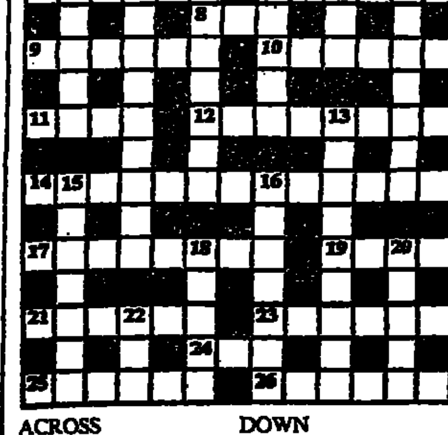
Well, this year I took out insurance on all my Christmas presents in advance for a premium of £5. From one of those fast-talking insurance brokers who persuaded me to take out fire, theft, etc, while I was at it. For a two-week period for only an extra £10. Anyway to cut a long story short, the candles on the Christmas tree burnt the tree yesterday and the tree burnt the house down and I had the house insured so I am now richer by £80,000 odd. Unfortunately, Dad did not have the house insured.

PS: I am sorry you didn't send me a present this year. Luckily I insured against this.

Love,

Tomorrow: How to mass-produce postage stamps with your new printing set.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 234)



ACROSS
1 Publication's appearance (6)
5 Connect (6)
8 Plunder (3)
9 Yellow-brown pigment (6)
10 Cunning (6)
11 Perceive by touch (4)
12 Institution destroyer (8)
14 Irregular tribunal (8,5)
17 Absence of faith (8)
19 Distinctive air (4)
21 Not genuine (6)
23 Hatred (6)
24 Convent sister (3)
25 French secondary schools (6)
26 Derv (6)

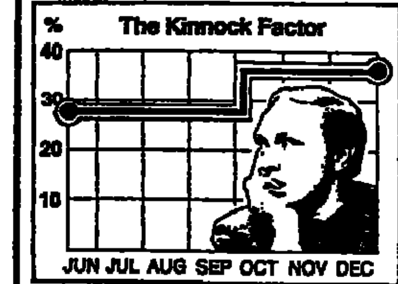
DOWN
2 Express opinion (5)
3 Actor's speech (9)
4 Athlete's guide (7)
5 Make ashamed (5)
6 High explosive (1,1,1)
7 Fast warship (7)
13 Double (9)
15 General pardon (7)
16 Without care (7)
18 Golf clubs (5)
20 Red cheek powder (5)
22 Utilise (3)

SOLUTION TO No 233
ACROSS: 1 Dictum 4 Felony 7 Camp 8 Decimate 9 Landmass 12 Fly 15 Editor 16 Veneer 17 Fan 19 Sabotage 24 Encloses 25 Stew 26 Closet 27 Source
DOWN: 1 Duce 2 Companion 3 Modem 4 Focus 5 Lump 6 Natal 10 Dross 11 Sweat 12 Freighter 13 Yard 14 Serf 18 Annal 20 Asset 21 Oasis 22 Alas 23 Twee

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Rising with a new leader

Twice recently, leading political journalists have discounted the rise in the polls for the Labour Party since the "unity" conference early in October, in one instance saying "the Party has not risen nearly as much as might have been expected in the opinion polls after the election of a young and amiable new leader". In fact, there has been a remarkable and very sharp rise which occurred almost precisely on the occasion of Mr Kinnock's election to the Labour leadership. In the June election, the Conservatives received 44 per cent of the vote, Labour 28 per cent and the Alliance 26 per cent. In nine public opinion polls taken between then and the end of September by Gallup, MORI, Marplan and NOP, the support averaged as follows: 44.5 per cent supported the Conservatives, 27.8 per cent Labour and 26.3 per cent the Alliance. The opinion polls varied by no more than two or three percentage points among themselves.



Sixteen polls were taken by these organizations (plus Harris) between October 5 and December 16. These averaged: 42 per cent Conservative (down 2 per cent), 37 per cent Labour (up nine) and 20 per cent Alliance (down six). This has been a stable and consistent finding over the past three months. The "Kinnock Factor"?

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research

Public opinion





Fatal fallout: the real effect of acid rain and right, the Hollywood vision of The Day After the bomb has fallen

Sample example

The General Housing Survey conducted by the Government's Statistical Service was described as "statistically worthless" by Auberon Waugh in a recent issue of The Spectator *because the sample "involved only a few more than 3,000 women or one-seventieth of one per cent of women over 16". Mr Waugh surely knows that he need take but a sip to see that the wine is sour, whether it comes from a bottle, a magnum or a jeroboam.*

Many people, including Mr Waugh, confuse the size of a sample with the percentage sampled. So long as a sample is large enough to be statistically reliable (say 1,000 adults), the statistical reliability is the same (plus or minus 3 per cent) no matter if that sample is drawn from among 40 million British adults, 3 million adults in Ireland or 160 million adults in America.

Un-Common TV



We live in a democratic society – or do we? You would think that MPs would be responsive to public opinion, at least on matters of communication if not in terms of substantive matters such as the death penalty and local government. Yet Austin Mitchell seems to be making little progress in getting the Commons to agree to the televising of Parliament even in a limited and carefully controlled way. A recent MORI poll for the *Sunday Times* shows that by more than two-to-one public opinion is in favour of seeing the House of Commons in action on their televisions. Results of the poll (taken in early December) revealed that 63 per cent of voters say that televising the Commons' procedures would be a good thing, 29 per cent say a bad thing and 8 per cent "don't know". This is one occasion when MPs should pay close attention to public opinion.

Ecological concern

The Europeans and their Environment *is the latest report from the Commission for the European Community's study carried out in the 10 EEC countries. The data for the UK show that while few people* complain *about such things as drinking water purity (9 per cent), noise (12 per cent), lack of access to open space and countryside (12 per cent), loss of good farmland (17 per cent) and deterioration of the landscape (21 per cent), most people are* worried or concerned *about other environmental issues. For instance, three out of four are worried or concerned a "great deal" or "fair amount" about the extinction of certain species of plant and animal and the depletion of the world's forest resources (each 73 per cent) and two-thirds (64 per cent) say they are concerned about water pollution and a majority (58 per cent) are concerned about air pollution.*

Kansas canvass

Eighty per cent of the British public believes that ITV was right to show the film *"The Day After"* on television and only 9 per cent felt it was "not right". It was interesting to see that, among those who watched the film only 6 per cent felt that ITV were wrong to show the film while twice as many, 12 per cent, of those who *didn't* watch it took this view. Nearly 21 per cent of those who saw it thought it was not nearly as bad as reality would be following a nuclear attack. Sixty-one per cent thought the morale of people after an attack would be worse, 60 per cent thought that suffering would be worse, 68 per cent thought that health and welfare would be worse and 63 per cent thought thought that public order would be worse than that portrayed in the film, according to MORI research for the IBA and ITN.

Big Brother watch

1984 is upon us, and Oceana has moved to America. According to a recent Louis Harris and Associates poll, Americans, 27 per cent of whom have read George Orwell's 1984, *are increasingly concerned about threats to privacy. One third (31 per cent) of those polled said they were "very concerned" in 1978. This has risen to nearly half (48 per cent) in 1983. One-third mistrust the Internal Revenue Service and nearly four in 10 mistrust the FBI. An overwhelming 86 per cent of the American public thought it was possible that "a government in Washington will use confidential information to intimidate individuals or groups it feels are its enemies" and 70 per cent said it was "likely". However nearly a quarter of congressmen interviewed, one-third of the business executives and more than half (56 per cent) of the editors interviewed thought it was "unlikely".*

Robert Worcester

The author is chairman of MORI. Details of fieldwork, dates and sample sizes are reported in British Public Opinion Newsletter, *published by the firm.*

BOOKS

Paperbacks: **Philip Howard**, our Literary Editor, makes his year's choice

For those who like their nonsense nonsensical

Picking the paperbacks of the year is like standing under Niagara with a bucket trying to catch salmon. And we do realize, don't we, boys and girls, that the selection is subjective, erratic and pig-headed. One man's meat is another man's *poisson*. On a different day, in a different mood, the selection would be different. But here are some of the paperbacks that I should spend my Christmas book-tokens on.

On the shelf of light fiction for a good undemanding read there was **Vintage Stuff** by Tom Sharpe, paperbacked for the first time, *(Pan, £1.75)*. It is not quite Vintage Sharpe (I still like *Wilt* and the South African ones best). But it is characteristically rude, anarchic and funny: a send-up of all those clubland heroes by Dornford Yates and Sapper rescuing heroines around Europe in vintage Bentleys. For those who prefer to take such nonsense seriously a new series, Dent Everyman, has started reissuing such classic thrillers with **Blind Corner** by Dornford Yates *(Dent, £2.50)* and **Bulldog Drummond** *(Dent, £2.50)*. **Flashman and the Redskins** by George MacDonald Fraser *(Pan, £1.95)* ships Flashie to the New World as a Forty-Niner on the Santa Fe trail, and then with Custer at Little Big Horn.

On the shelf of serious or higher fiction the event of the year was the appearance in paperback of Terry Kilmartin's definitive and sensitive translation of Proust's **Remembrance of Things Past** *(Penguin, three volumes, £5.95 each)*. If you are ever going to climb that mountain, this is the best and cheapest version in English. Virago at the end of the year published two of Nadine Gordimer's early novels, **The Lying Days** and **Occasion for Loving** *(Virago, £3.50 each)*. One has to grow up and leave behind the lying days of youth. In South Africa there can be far-reaching consequences from the wrong occasion for loving. The books are about black and white, passion and politics, and the interesting grey areas in between, by one of our finest contemporary novelists.

For biography let us pick out Humphrey Carpenter's brilliant critical book on **W. H. Auden** *(Unwin, £4.50)*; **Tennyson: The Unquiet Heart** by Robert Bernard Martin *(Faber, £5.95)*; and Denis Mack Smith's **Mussolini** *(Paladin, £2.95)*.

On the history shelf the biggest and best paperback of the year was John Julius Norwich's loving and scholarly portrayal of the most beautiful and magical of cities: **A History of Venice** *(Penguin, £8.95)*, the standard English work of Venetian history. Let us note two big biographical histories of English monarchs, in the series edited by Professor J. J. Scarisbrick: **Henry VI** by Bertram Wolffe *(Methuen, £5.95)*; and **Edward IV** by Charles Ross *(Methuen, £7.95)*.

From the poetry shelf let us pick out **The Oxford Book of Satirical Verse**, chosen by Geoffrey Grigson *(Oxford, £4.50)*, which covers the battlefield from the big guns of Dryden and Byron to the gentler satire of amusement, directed at conditions and circumstances, at common states of mind or the clichés of sentimentalism. Also note **The Oxford Book of Verse in English Translation**, chosen and edited by Charles Tomlinson *(Oxford, £4.95)*. Translation into verse is an old English art, and this anthology discovers it from all ages and languages, with many surprises and delights.

On the critical shelf the silver dagger must go to Philip Larkin for **Required Writing** *(Faber, £4.95)*, his collected reviews from the past 30 years; viz. the finest and funniest lit. crit. in English. Notice also **The Penguin Complete Longer Non-Fiction of George Orwell** *(Penguin, £3.95)*, a cumbersome title, but the first paperback collection of *Wigan Pier*, *Down and Out* and *Catalonia*.

For the classics I commend to you **Alfred the Great** by Simon Keynes and Michael Lapidge *(Penguin, £2.95)*, a rich assembly of Asser, Alfred himself, and the other contemporary sources. Also do not miss **Horace, the Complete Odes and Epodes** by W. G. Shepherd and Betty Radice *(Penguin, £1.95)*.

For crime Zomba Books have started a new series, called Black Box Thrillers, which recovers from oblivion the unobtainable pulp classics of our youth. The Cornell Woolrich volume includes **The Bride Wore Black** and **Waltz into Darkness** (both filmed by Truffaut), **Rear Window** (Hitchcock) and **Phantom Lady** (Robert Siodmak).

The most conspicuous growth area in paperback publishing is literary travel. Century, Penguin and other houses have started good new travel series this year. But the most entertaining and perhaps least known single volume of travel between paperbacks was **Flaubert in Egypt**, edited by Francis Steegmuller *(Michael Haag, £5.95)*.



Clarendon: "one of Britain's greatest men"

Writing home

Against the current

Selected Letters of E. M. Forster
Volume I: 1879-1920
Edited by Mary Lago and P. N. Furbank
(Collins, £15.95)

Two jeers for Morgan! Since the death of "our greatest living novelist" in 1970, E. M. Forster's reputation, which had hitherto increased with every book he did not write, has taken what Dorian Williams used to describe so gloatingly as a crushing fall. Anthony Powell, the present GLN, surely spoke for England (if not for Eng. Lit.) when fingering Forster as the most overrated writer of this century. Simon Raven carried out a memorable hatchet job in *Shadows on the Grass* on the venerated idol of King's. "The thing about Morgan", Joe Ackerley told Raven, "is that he's just an old auntie. He is mean, coy, prudish (although he purports to be of Rabelasian tolerance) and very, very spiteful." Forster's sentimental gush and brand of liberalism won't wishy-washy any longer, that stuff about having the courage to lay his mother before his country, or whatever, was finally exposed as drivel in a climate where Cambridge itself began to seem suspect. Orders are slackening for after-life supper with the Apostles.

Forster's biographer P. N. Furbank, Reader in Literature at the Open University, is coolly bucking the trend. In his introduction to this first volume of *Letters*, he points out that Forster's friends regarded the novelist as quite special, charming, interesting, and a very strong character in certain respects. Professor Mary Lago of Missouri University, Mr Furbank's collaborator, feels that the letters selected "must make the reader feel the intensity of the convictions that motivated Forster as a professional and spiritual being: the importance of friendship, the evil of restrictions (such as censorship) of the free exchange of ideas, and the importance of all the arts as a bulwark for the desperate fragility of civilization".

This volume takes us from young "Poppy" Forster's first (dictated) note to his mother through to the block before *A Passage to India*. Quite apart from my own particular interest in the Darwin/Wedgwood outfit (of which the Forsters were on the fringe), there is plenty of absorbing material here as we follow Forster to and from Surrey, Cambridge, the Continent, India (a visit with Bob Trevelyan and Goldie Lowes Dickinson) and Egypt (where he worked for the Red Cross and had an "adventure" with a tram-conductor). Not all the letters are addressed to his mother. The recipients ranged from Virginia Woolf to Hugh Walpole, from Sir Henry Newbolt to Siegfried Sassoon. There is a fair measure of enjoyment to be had – often, I fear, from between the lines – among the prim travelogues, spinsterish whinges, catty little jokes, the occasional deeply repressed confidence and (as in his letters to Forrest Reid, the Ulster novelist and croquet player) some astringent literary criticism.

The scholarly editors' footnotes also give pleasure but a few raps on the knuckles are in order. For example, "taught school" is not an acceptable Americanism; Viscount Morley of Blackburn was not "Lord John Morley"; a glance at a couple of genealogical reference books (under my editorship) would have been of help with the "unidentified" Misses Ommaney and Ievers. I was also surprised by the editors' assertion that "the Prince" visiting the National Gallery in 1914 "must have been Prince John". Surely Forster's description of – presumably – the Prince of Wales as an "incredibly small little boy" was ironic.

It must be doubtful whether his *Letters* will do much to rehabilitate Forster's reputation, but the first volume certainly tells us more about the man and his work. "Death destroys a man", Forster was fond of quoting Michelangelo, "the idea of Death saves him."

Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd

Majestic vistas

Survey of London
Volume XLI, Southern Kensington: Brompton
Edited by F. H. W. Sheppard
(Athlone Press for the GLC, £45)

C. R. Ashbee founded The London Survey Committee, and, as its chairman, published in 1886 its first slim monograph. Now a function of the Historic Buildings Panel of the GLC, the Survey of London has just produced *Volume XLI, Southern Kensington: Brompton*. It covers a wedge-shaped area from Knightsbridge in the east to Brompton Cemetery in the west, bounded by Brompton and Old Brompton Roads on the north and Fulham Road in the south.

Those familiar with this majestic and beautifully orchestrated work will know what to expect. Newcomers will be astonished by the comprehensiveness of its research and the quality and presentation of its content in text, drawing and photograph. Dr F. H. W. Sheppard has edited the Survey since 1954, producing 16 volumes. He has now retired after maintaining throughout standards unequalled by any other work of this magnitude.

Although Brompton has some earlier buildings most date from 1820 when the surge of nineteenth-century specula tive housebuilding was beginning to swallow up the famed orchards and market-gardens of west London. The area is divided into a number of estates of which the Smith's Charity Estate and the Boltons, and Redcliffe Square, are the largest. In addition Volume XLI includes the development of Harrods, the building of the London Oratory and the development of Alexander and Thurloe Squares, among others.

The layout and design of the various estates were generally the responsibility of the estate surveyor, often an architect. George Basevi, architect of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, was surveyor to both Alexander and Smith's Charity Estates until his untimely death in 1845.

The Gunter family were among the successful landowners. James Gunter, named in 1817 as a "landed confectioner", bought land in west London and with his surveyor and architect George Godwin developed both the Boltons and Redcliffe Square areas. Treguntter Road was named after the Gunter home in Breconshire, and Redcliffe Square presumably because Godwin had restored St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol. Godwin, who with his brother Henry built three churches in the Kensington area, was an independent building lessor and also the editor of *The Builder*.

Some builders only undertook a few houses but even so there were many bankruptcies, and some were imprisoned for debt, so uncertain was the property market. James Bonnin, however, was more successful than most, building 300 houses in 40 years, before he too crashed. The real golden boy of his time was Charles James Freake, son of a coal merchant. He was a carpenter turned builder, architect, patron of the arts and public benefactor. In a career lasting 50 years he built 500 large houses and many other buildings. He rose in the social scale, entertained royalty at his musical "tableaux vivants", became a baronet and died in 1884 leaving the best part of three-quarters of a million.

The first occupants of new houses were often the developers, their architects, builders and building tradesmen. The area also attracted many writers, musicians and actors including the singer Jenny Lind, Muzio Clementi, the composer, and Edward Richard Wright, described as a low comedian.

Gontran Goulden

Facing up to the hazards of language

A world teeming with abundant images

Darwin's Plots
By Gillian Beer
(Routledge & Kegan Paul, £17.95)

Some thinkers have so modified and constructed our ways of apprehending our world that we must discuss it in their terms, even if we have not read them, even if we wish to reject or modify their assumptions. Such was Darwin, and later, Freud. Gillian Beer's excellent book is about Darwin's ideas, as they developed. In the nineteenth century there were no "two cultures": history, science, religion, anthropology, sociology, literature appeared side by side in the same Reviews. Darwin wrote for the general civilized public. Gillian Beer begins with an examination of his language. She makes it very clear that he thought carefully about the implications of his choice of words and style.

His world, she says, teems with specificity, described forms of life, abundance. It has "no place for an initiating or intervening creator". His world precedes Man, will probably last beyond him, exceeds the grasp of his understanding. *The Origin of Species* deliberately excludes discussion of the origin or nature of humankind. *Darwin's Plots* shows the hazards implicit in the nature of language itself for this enterprise. Language is a human phenomenon, anthropocentric. Mrs Beer shows Darwin trying to mitigate this, and also revising his texts to get rid of a planning intelligence. He deletes phrases like "primordial forms into which life *was first breathed*." He amends the personification of Nature as a benign goddess, or Natural Selection as a designing demiurge. This is hard: the word "creature" implies "creator".

Observation of similarity is essential to human perception and thought: the making of metaphors is an intrinsic part of discovering the world. Some modern scientists eschew metaphor as an improper subjective intrusion into objective observation. Some see it as a way of observing the relations of minds and things. Language is shot through with metaphor – consider the roots of a plant, a tooth, a language, a race, a culture. Again Dr Beer shows that Darwin *thought* about the sources and effects of his images. He depicted the relationships of species as a Tree of Descent, initially because the diagram he drew looked like a tree. But he carried Milton on his wondering journeys through the tropical forests and his tree became mythical, the Tree of Life, but also the Tree of Knowledge – *Arbor Vitae, Arbor Scientiae*. His subversive vision of our origins thus changes our myth of origin, the Man in the Garden, naming the beasts of the field.

Gillian Beer studies Darwin's ideas (and those of other thinkers about Development) in Victorian fiction. *The Water Babies* depicts the metamorphosis of living forms in the primal sea. Hardy takes up Darwin's views of sexual selection for fitness, and his interest in chance, and struggle for survival. And we are given a new vision of George Eliot. There is a brilliant reading of *Middlemarch* in terms of human time, the search for origins, the web of elective affinities. But the reading of *Daniel Deronda* is one of the best and wisest uses of history of ideas and particular interpretation I have met.

Middlemarch is connected to the *Origin of Species* and *Daniel Deronda* to *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex*. In that book Darwin points out that in most species the female selects the male for "fitness". With us, the man chooses, and in civilized society chooses for financial reasons and "according to the accepted standards of 'beauty' ". Darwin quotes Schopenhauer. "The final aim of all love intrigues, be they comic or tragic, is really of more importance than all other ends in human life .... It is not the weal or woe of one individual but that of the human race to come that is at stake."

Seen in the light of this, the traditional matter of fiction – female beauty, courtship, marriage, heredity, lost parents – assumes ironies, problems, importances which George Eliot understood and shaped into the plan of her novel. In its first scene Daniel, a Jew unaware of his cultural roots, with an unknown mother, watches rootless Gwendolen playing a game of chance in a casino. The first sentence is "Was she beautiful or not?" The "love intrigue" prefigured does not happen. Daniel's discovery and acceptance of his roots, Gwendolen's horror of love and childbearing, raise the question "Can one escape from one's genetic and cultural inheritance – from the genealogical imperative?".

Lucien Goldman defined great writing as a concrete presentation of beings and things which derived from a vision of life that held in *extreme coherence*. the powerful ideas, social forces, behaviour of its time. Gillian Beer has triumphantly shown that *Daniel Deronda* – in conception and in spite of some fatigued writing – is such a coherent vision. Gillian Beer's authority and ease with varied and complex material have an appropriately analogous coherence.

Modern American fiction has contemplated one of the central concepts of our time – entropy – with wit, terror and variety. I should like to see a fiction that came to terms with the ideas of evolutionary biologists, Darwin's successors. John Maynard Smith and others have studied "altruism" in animals in a way that could modify our moral concepts. Freud, in his great meditation on the origins of life and the desire for death, in *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*, speculated on the binding and building sexual force of Eros, and on Weissman's hypothesis that the germ cell was immortal, the individual body mortal. The discovery of DNA, of the relation of genotype and phenotype, endorsed Weissman.

Margaret Mead, a formidable fighter against Victorian sexual stereotypes and fixed roles, nevertheless at the end of her life became interested in the double helix of DNA and in the apparent necessity for life of the opposition and difference between male and female. Feminist fiction and theory tend to use a Marxist paradigm of exploitation. George Eliot – and Gillian Beer – are women profoundly and with open-minded ambition concerned with the nature, the limitations and the possibilities of being a woman. There is a possible fiction to be made, informed by biological as much as social Darwinism. Ideas too have roots and continued development.

A. S. Byatt



Darwin the thinker as seen by the cartoonist "E.W."

Historic rectitude

Clarendon and the English Revolution
By R. W. Harris
(Chatto & Windus, £30)

It is curious that considering the multitude of scholars who study every aspect of the Civil War in England, producing monographs on the struggle for Hull or cantankerous debates about the nature of Independency or the role of the Levellers, scarcely anyone turns to Clarendon's great history except as a source for pillage or disapproval. Compared with the vast scholarly industries that churn out books, articles and journals on Gibbon, Macaulay or even minor poets of the seventeenth century, Clarendon attracts few scholars, although most pay lip-service to his greatness. True, he has not been entirely neglected. Brian Wormald wrote a difficult, complex but highly perceptive study in 1951 (scarcely referred to by Mr Harris, maybe it was too difficult), and there is a brilliant *tour de force* by our best living historical essayist, Hugh Trevor Roper (if only he had written Clarendon's life rather than Archbishop Laud's!), but little else.

Unfortunately Mr Harris is not the man to fill the need for a new long study of Clarendon as both politician and historian. His book is easy to read and he has read the obvious sources. He quotes agreeably Clarendon's splendid prose so every few pages there is a delectable oasis to refresh the thirsty reader. But there are too many reminders of the classroom – too many "as Dr Morrill says on Cheshire" or "as Professor Everitt writes on Kent" or "Dr Pearl on London" etc., followed by a long paragraph of précis. It is a pity that the cud could not have reached another stomach. Nevertheless the book has many virtues – it is less tortuous than Wormald's; indeed it gives a good clear account of Clarendon's public life. Harris's judgments are sensible enough, though rarely penetrating or truly perceptive. It is a useful book for an intelligent reader, ignorant of Clarendon, yet curious about him.

I first read Clarendon at home in an old Boehm edition and then found the majestic folio edition in the public library. Through the long summer of 1927 I read it day after day. It was like wandering in a cathedral – majesty everywhere, not only in the prose but in the thought, in the almost superhuman capacity for empathy and distance which are perhaps Clarendon's greatest qualities both as man and writer.

The first portrait that I bought was of Clarendon by Hanneman, but a far better version than the one in the National Portrait Gallery which is reproduced on the jacket of this book. I know Clarendon's features far better than any other historical character's. His flesh, cream and pink, looks so soft that the lightest touch would dent it; the thinning chestnut hair, equally soft and silk-like; arched nose powerful, thin; eyes brilliant brown and alive with watchful, slightly hectoring, intelligence; and the most curious hands, podgy but with long thin fingers, sensitive, nail-bitten, and with tiny turned up finger-tips. Under his gown there is the sense of a deep and powerful chest, a touch of the tank-like torso so common in politicians – a feeling of brute force so much at variance with his face. The more one studies this portrait, the more complex and fascinating and rare Clarendon seems.

And his career justifies such a view – a highly emotional man, quickly touched by injustice, he began life as a radical, a supporter of Pym, and one who rejoiced in Strafford's death. Fortunately he possessed deeper layers of emotion and commitment than those excited by immediate politics. He believed in the law with religious fervour and particularly the law that was enshrined in Britain's Fundamental Constitution, that secular trinity of King, Parliament and People which led him to break with Pym and his friends. He set himself the extremely difficult role of keeping the Stuarts to legitimacy in political action and expression which meant a constant battle with Henrietta Maria and hectoring advice to the royal brothers. From 1641-60, Clarendon displayed a political strength and rectitude rare if not unique amongst British statesmen, and by so doing made the Restoration possible. He was still a comparatively young and vigorous man in 1660 but within so short a time he was at risk. Disgraced, he nearly met the fate of a Strafford. And the political stability which he had worked for all of his life was lost.

In exile he wrote the *History* wherein is displayed the true greatness of Clarendon: his astonishing capacity to take an even and magnanimous view of the men of his age – Cromwell as well as Charles I; his deep and equally remarkable sense of the tides and turns of political feeling not only in Parliament but in the nation at large. Few men have possessed larger or better judgments when confronted with critical political issues. Few, if any, can doubt that Clarendon is one of Britain's greatest men; it is a pity he has yet to attract a scholar of the highest quality.

John Plumb

Crime: a final selection by H. R. F. Keating

Saints and sinners who keep to the point

Short days: short stories. And fine bundles of dark evening whileaways to hand. Most of them fall into that slightly curious mode the crime short story seems to impose. Depending on some ingenious twist not to be spotted by the reader, they have to cram a lot of significant, or red herringy, details into comparatively short lengths and their prose tends therefore to be shorn and informative rather than rich and evocative. There is less there, to my mind, though anyone wanting merely 10 or 20 minutes' entertainment might disagree.

Plenty for such people to read here, most notably in **The Best of Ellery Queen** *(Hale, £7.95)* which contains 30 stories culled from the Sixties and Seventies in that sterling American magazine. With such a field to pluck from (Borges features, and H. G. Wells's fine, but surely non-mystery, tale "The Door in the Wall") it might be expected that the standard is high. And so it is in the informative line with such stories as the late Ellery Queen's own four-page riddle "The Three Students". But in the evocative and memorable stakes only perhaps one, Eric Ambler's "The Blood Bargain", qualifies. But for that and the Wells the volume is worth having.

More reprints (and five originals) in **John Creasey's Crime Collection 1983** edited by Herbert Harris *(Gollancz, £7.95)* and again mostly twist-in-the-tailers, including the winner of the first *Times*/Veuve Cliquot contest, Madelaine Duke's "The Day It Rained in Singapaw", of which by now you have almost certainly forgotten the ingenious point. A story by Celia Dale, however, "Juno's Swans", certainly has the snake-writhing of real life in it instead of the mechanical twisting of the games-player. And, defying my neat categorization, Peter Lovesey's "The Virgin and the Bull" is as surprise-loaded as any aficionado could wish and yet recognizably about the real world. Oh, and there is a Sherlock Holmes pastiche from me (naughty fellow).

Twelve wholly new stories in **Winter's Crimes 15**, edited by George Hardinge *(Macmillan, £6.95)* and again Celia Dale, who seems particularly happy setting her stories in distant days, scores heavily with "Faery Tale", a delicious, faultless evocation of late Victorian painterly circles. P. D. James, too, has a pulsing story not dissimilar to her novel *Innocent Blood*. The elbow-room this editor allows certainly helps anyone wanting to be more than merely ingenious. And, another confession, I wanted to do that myself. Read "And We in Dreams", and see if I succeed.

Finally there is **Great French Detective Stories**, edited by T. J. Hale *(Bodley Head, £7.95)*, 10 stories ranging in date from 1876 to 1952 with a long scholarly introduction convincingly disproving the standard wisdom of British critics such as myself that there is no crime writing, bar Simenon, in French. Simenon, as might be expected, is the writer in this *galère* who splendidly shows (despite a too little daring translation by Mr Hale – "the boat which wouldn't leave", oooh) that a crime story can be a short story in the highest tradition. "Storm over the Channel" is full of the details, not of cooked-up crime, but of life, and it is funny too – "The sad lady looked at her whiting with very nearly the same expression as the whiting looked at her." Almost worth getting the book for that alone.

This is Harry Keating's last regular review of crime novels for *The Times*. He has entertained and informed and surprised us for 15 years, and has become, at an early age, the doyen of crime reviewers. If he did not quite invent, he perfected the 30-word capsule review that told you about the book and made you laugh. We shall miss him.

THE TIMES DIARY

Charley's angst

In *The Boss*, the profile of Charles Haughey written by two Irish journalists, Joe Joyce and Peter Murtagh, the former Taoiseach is described thus: "He believed that there was a conspiracy behind most events: everything happened because somebody made it happen.... He saw the most lowly report in any newspaper as having been inspired by someone and having been selected, edited and printed for a reason. If it was a reference favourable to Haughey, then it had been done by friends; if it was unfavourable, it had been inspired and placed deliberately by an enemy." Eason's, one of Dublin's major retail chains has refused to stock the book. I suspect a conspiracy.

By a whisker

Though five female writers have been racing to produce their own books on the subject of the opposite sex, a mere male has beaten them to it. *Men*, by Phillip Hodson, is due to be published January 11. Hodson, a marriage guidance counsellor and LBC's agony uncle, is perhaps the only professional problem-solver to be the source rather than the solution to a problem. Last year his wife, Anne Hooper, who is also a marriage guidance counsellor, wrote to *The Guardian* confessing a few doubts about how to cope with her own marriage.

The sales after

Since *The Day After* did not recoup its estimated $7m budget from its single American television screening, the company that made it, ABC, are relying on foreign sales to make up the production costs. The situation is not promising. Though it has been shown on British television and in West German cinemas, it still awaits screenings in most other European countries. A planned showing in Poland earlier this month was cancelled by the Polish Government at the last minute.

ABC may derive some hope from the fact that Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union have all requested cassettes of the film for review. Whether Michael Heseltine will be given a right to reply in these countries is not yet known.

Religious act

Not-so-old Christmas traditions: soldiers in the 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment, were given a self-service curry buffet instead of their usual Christmas lunch. And the parishioners at an Anglican church in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, were treated to a new-style family service on Christmas Day. Opening the service, the vicar, wearing a puppet called Dylan, performed a ventriloquist act.

BARRY FANTONI

"I've got you some short-sleeve shirts and a nice pair of sandals"

Unpatriotic

Two scandals which disturbed Vienna at the turn of the century, one involving a judge accused of murder and the other an officer accused of spying, have provided the inspiration for several plays. One is *The Devil's Lieutenant* (to be screened by Channel 4 on January 11 and 12); another is John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me*. The film rights of the latter were bought by a Hungarian film company for a new version to be directed by Szabo, who made the much-acclaimed *Mephisto*. Osborne's script has now been scrapped for it dwells on two things that would upset Hungarian officialdom: the chief protagonist's homosexuality and the fact that he was blackmailed into spying by the Russians.

Figured in

Awareness of the fact that *1984* is set in 1984 is going too far. A statement from Population Services Europe insists on dragging in a reference to the fateful year and has contrived: "It was just 36 years ago in 1948 that George Orwell wrote his haunting novel *1984* and although he never made reference to terrifying population statistics..."

Imperial echo

Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan of Brunei, is buying most of the furniture for his new palace at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Patricia Menguito, who is acting as his agent, finds the Mart perfect for such items as the £20,000 dining room set in the clean contemporary style which the Sultan prefers. Unfortunately, it does not stock thrones, and the four required by Brunei – why four, I wonder? – will be made in London. Ms Menguito comments: "It's tough to find a good throne maker these days."

PHS

Poland: Roger Boyes on a new conflict between church and state

The explosive case of the turbulent priest

Warsaw

The Christmas congregation at the Warsaw church of St Stanislaw Kostka was as mixed as the shepherds and the magi at the plastic crib: burly steelworkers from the nearby *Huta Warszawa mill*, scanning the pews for any threat to their parish priest; actors, intellectuals, students accustomed to hearing gritty pro-Solidarity sermons, and inevitably, unsecret police. A detective puzzle – who put explosives and ammunition in the apartment of the parish priest – has mingled with the deeper religious mysteries of the season and given an uneasy edge to relations between church and state in Poland.

The story so far: Father Jerzy Popieluszko, a young priest with a sharp tongue ("I try to say what others think") and an entrenched sympathy for the outlawed Solidarity union, has been under investigation for some months for the anti-government tone of his sermons, especially those delivered in his monthly masses for the fatherland.

Word reached him from senior churchmen and eventually from the authorities that he was one of four priests being investigated, although no formal charges had been presented. This did not surprise Father Popieluszko, whose sermons regularly draw congregations of several thousands, the crowd spilling into a nearby park, and a large display of uniformed police.

In early December the police tried to issue the priest with a summons but the housekeeper refused to answer the knocking and a gaggle of angry women scared them away. On December 12 the police eventually managed to take the priest for interrogation, and in his pockets found the keys to his apartment. Father Popieluszko normally lives in a cluttered study-bedroom at the church and rarely uses the flat. Police entered the apartment the same morning and say they found explosives, ammunition, many thousands of leaflets calling for demonstrations, an underground printing press, printing ink, illegal documents and canisters of tear gas. The priest has been charged accordingly but after the intervention of the episcopate has been released on bail.

The discovery was extraordinary and, despite the utterances of church advisers that this was an isolated, politically insignificant case, poses serious questions about the future strategy of the Catholic church. Until now, official action against priests has been based on the idea that church and state are separate and that anti-government sermons cross the demarcation line.

Church leaders accept that the state has the right to declare some utterances provocative but then tries to undo any damage through the church-state mixed commission or by the personal intervention of a bishop on behalf of his local priest. The bishop agrees to have a cooling word with the priest, the priest is freed and, after a couple of weeks, everything is back as it was.

The government recently told church representatives that it had a list of 69 clerics whose activities were breaking the law, but the list was not handed over. This in itself does not constitute a crisis in church-state relations, say church advisers, and most people agree with that view.

The case of Father Popieluszko, however, is more serious. The government says that too many priests are encouraging the Solidarity opposition – but so long as *this encouragement is expressed in* sermons, couched in religious metaphor, there is not a great deal that the authorities can do, even under the more restrictive sections of the revised penal code. But the discovery of explosives, if the authorities can make the charges stick, places radical priests directly in the centre of conspiracy theories beloved of hardline Marxists.

For some time now there have been mutterings in Prague and Moscow about unholy alliances between Polish priests and dangerous counter-revolutionaries (the codeword for Solidarity). They can all nourish their prejudices on Father Popieluszko.

The priest has denied the charges but cannot comment on them. There seem to be three broad possibilities. First, that the priest really was the focus of an underground group with violent ambitions. None of his parishioners can accept this. Second, that he unwittingly lent his apartment to a friend who in turn lent it to an



Father Jerzy Popieluszko: subversion – or was he framed?

underground activist. Or, finally, that the material was planted, *perhaps by a disgruntled faction* within the security *apparat*.

The last possibility is not entirely fanciful: last May a dozen men later identified as security policemen broke into a church aid centre, destroyed medicines and beat up charity workers. The incident, a month before the Pope's visit, was never explained satisfactorily.

The church is not in an easy position. Its strategy, especially since the papal visit, has been to expand the lines of dialogue with the government and make full use of them to press, for example, for the freeing of political prisoners, or a special fund to aid private farmers. At the same time it has allowed parish priests to carry out their ministry according to their preference; There is little central guidance, and this has obviously benefited the many priests with Solidarity sympathies.

Now it may face the choice from the Jaruzelski leadership: give stricter guidelines to your priests or jeopardize the past gains, the ground won by the Pope's visit.

It is a complex dilemma best illustrated by the confusion surrounding the Christmas message from Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the primate, to the people. The first draft of the message calls on priests not to contribute to social friction. The second and final version simply says that the episcopate, in keeping with the teaching of the Pope, will advise its priests to stay out of politics.

The primate knows that 1984 could bring only small victories but big defeats for the Catholic church. Father Popieluszko knows that even small victories are worth fighting for, that small wins for the church are still "large gains for Christ". In a mass earlier this year, he said: "One must not keep silent when proven Christian morality is replaced by so-called socialist morality."

George Walden

Reds and beds: the cash connexion

The job of the Government's new booster, Lord Whitelaw, is to unify, to reconcile and to make one where there were many. One of the trickiest areas to coordinate is foreign and domestic policy, which interact in unpredictable ways. Lord Whitelaw will need no reminding of this. But he might like to reflect on the implications of a double anniversary which falls next year.

Nato and the NHS will soon be 35 years old. In each case there is a lot to celebrate. Since the war, Britain has enjoyed greater peace and better health than at any other time this century. We shall still need both institutions in the year 2000 – unless Soviet hearts are melted by CND's call for the abolition of the Warsaw Pact. But who is going to pay the dizzying cost of both? And have we got our spending priorities between them right?

The current costs of defence and health are running neck and neck at about £15 billion, with defence edging ahead next year. Only social services (i.e. pensions and benefits) cost more. It takes a lot of people to keep us secure and well: nearly a million in the NHS; more than 500,000 in defence. Elsewhere, new technology is often as much a threat as a promise. But not here. In these two areas it does not mean fewer jobs, there being no obvious substitute for infantrymen or nurses.

It has been calculated that the entire present British defence budget will buy exactly one modern aircraft by the year 2000, if costs rise as they have done in recent years. No doubt the same calculation could be used to show that the NHS budget could buy a single body scanner by the same date. In health and defence, it seems that nothing but the best will do.

What does all this have to do with Willie Whitelaw? As the strains of maintaining the NHS and defence increase, so will the temptation for the man in the street to ask how many hip-joint operations you could get for a £1½m tank. It is of course a false choice: better red than no hospital bed is neither an attractive nor a necessary option. But there is a chain of consciousness which runs straight from cruise and Trident to bed closures in the local hospital.

It is not only hysterical peaceniks and gullible clergymen who are asking why we are "cutting" the health service and deploying "surplus" nuclear weapons. Perfectly sensible people are confused and apprehensive about the priorities of security: security against the menace from Moscow, and in old age. And, as Lord Whitelaw must know better than anyone, you can only isolate the extremes, whether in the health services trade union Cohse or CND, if you reassure the middle.

How is this to be done? The Government has the right policies – but that is not enough. They must be seen as national policies and the Government must show itself as determined to manage the whole *area of defence as it is the NHS.*

Increasingly, defence and arms control go together in the public mind. We shall find it difficult to go on contributing more than anyone else except the Americans to Nato (5.3 per cent of gnp) unless we are seen to make a distinctive national contribution to arms control too. Otherwise, fears that we are doing more than our fair share in military terms, and less than we should to reduce East/West tensions, will gain ground.

We are, and should remain, the closest European allies of the US. But the most reliable allies are those who can be relied on to speak their own minds. We do not share Washington's more extravagant visions of a titanic struggle with communism, and we should say so. What we do share is the burden of defence against the real Soviet threat, soberly assessed, and we should say that too.

This is where the national element comes in: a more distinctively British style, coupled with rigorous management of the defence budget. It will widen the base of support for the continuing exertions we shall need to make to ensure our security into 1990 and beyond.

Like East-West relations, the health service cries out for proper management if we are able to afford it, as well as defence, in 15 years' time. It is difficult to complain about, or even calculate, a half per cent cut in staff when you do not know how many people you employ, which is the case in some health authority regions. The left emphasize that it is a *national* service: so it is, and efficiency is in the interests of everyone.

Defence is different, but it is not that different. Efficiency is not divisible: the Government's slogan that it can be achieved in the NHS without damaging patient care should be echoed in a determination to ensure that we spend as much on the military as we need, and no more, and that the money is well spent – at the sharp end.

The argument could be extended to education, or to local government, where painful readjustments are also taking place. But for obvious reasons, the health service is the most poignant parallel. The last thing we need, as we move up to the golden jubilee of the NHS and Nato in 15 years, are enforced, hasty cuts in both areas because we have failed to take the right decisions now. We need reassurance that defence as well as health is under firm national management. Michael Heseltine – a proven "organization man" – is just right for the job. And Lord Whitelaw, whose task it is to see across the whole span of policy, is well placed to orchestrate the reassurance.

The author is Conservative MP for Buckingham.







Lord Whitelaw, holding the ring between the demands of Health (Norman Fowler) and Defence (Michael Heseltine). There need be no conflict if expenditure on both is rigorously controlled

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In search of a Falklands umbrella

Deadlock persists over the sovereignty issue, but Henry Stanhope suggests that contact with the new Argentine government of President Alfonsin (right) can only be a matter of time



Urgent consideration is now being given in Whitehall to ways of following up the signals of detente which recently flickered between Britain and Argentina, 18 months after the Falklands war. But, despite some recent excited press headlines, officials are seeking a step-by-step improvement in relations between the two countries, rather than any swift and dramatic change.

Hopes for a better climate between London and Buenos Aires were raised by Mrs Thatcher's cautious welcome to President Raul Alfonsin on his inauguration in mid-December. But her continuing refusal to negotiate over sovereignty of the Falkland Islands and his reluctance to declare an official end of hostilities are bound to restrict the scope of any talks.

Current thinking in Britain favours the "umbrella" approach, as adopted during negotiations in the early 1970s over communications between Argentina and the Falklands. As the Franks Report put it, both then agreed to meet "without prejudice to either side's position on sovereignty".

Argentines believe that Britain should make the first move on the grounds that it is diplomatically easier for the stronger power to do so. But if Mrs Thatcher held up a *brolly of the aforesaid description*, would President Alfonsin and his team agree to talks under it? And if they did, what would they then find to talk about?

The Whitehall argument is that so far Britain has made all the running and that there are proposals ready on the table now – if only the Argentines would turn to them. Nor is it first demanding an official declaration on the end of hostilities – although this would be an important confidence-building measure which could usefully extend the range of discussion.

In July 1982, just after the end of the fighting, Britain reduced the radius of the exclusion zone around the Falklands from 200 miles to 150 miles, and rechristened it a protection zone – open to neutral traffic and even Argentine merchant shipping, if any applied in advance (none has ever done so, for understandable reasons).

One of the gestures the Argentines would like from Britain is a further reduction or preferably an end of the zone. This is something which Mrs Thatcher's government is not prepared to contemplate, at least until an official declaration of peace has come from Buenos Aires. In any case, it is argued, the zone extends only 80 miles from some parts of the islands.

What Alfonsin would like most of all from Britain, apart from sovereignty over the Falklands, is a suspension of work on the £200m-plus airfield at Mount Pleasant. However, not only does the Ministry of Defence need the improved runway to provide the means of rapid reinforcement of the garrison, but the Falklands' economy needs it for commercial development. Lord Shackleton, in both his reports on the islands in 1976 and 1982, recommended construction of a more reliable 8,500ft airfield for commercial reasons alone. As Mrs Thatcher is grimly determined to retain sovereignty over the Falklands, the need for the runway is almost undeniable.

So, if Britain is unwilling to debate sovereignty, its right to build a new airport or, for the time being, its protection zone around the islands, what would it put forward at the umbrella talks?

One relatively easy subject would be the future of the 230 graves of Argentine soldiers who died in last year's war and who now lie buried there. Ideally Britain would like the Alfonsin government to rebury the bodies on the mainland. Failing that Whitehall would agree to a properly constituted visit by relatives, under the organization of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This, moreover, is a topic which could be discussed by the Argentines with the ICRC, avoiding the complication of bilateral talks between the two governments.

Secondly, Britain would like to re-establish commercial relations. Five representations have been made through the European Commission presidency on Britain's behalf, but so far without success. London lifted financial restrictions between the two countries in October 1982, but Argentina reciprocated a year later only after pressure had been exerted by the International Monetary Fund.

In 1981, the last full year before the war, Britain sold £161m worth of goods to Argentina and bought £137m worth in return. This represented only 3.4 per cent of world trade with the Argentines, slightly less than France and Italy and significantly less than West Germany. But restoration of trade would be an important step forward. So would the development of fresh scientific, cultural and sporting links. (At least one senior British diplomat sat in the crowd at White Hart Lane when Ossie Ardiles of Argentina played his first game for Tottenham Hotspur after the war).

There is no evident hurry to restore full ambassadorial relations, which is being seen as a target rather than a starting point. At present each country is allowed four diplomats in a Special Interests section in the other's capital, the British flying under the Swiss embassy flag in Buenos Aires, the Argentines under the Brazilian standard in Britain. But all serious communications are conducted through the protecting powers, Switzerland and Brazil.

This makes communications arduous. A British message to the Argentine government would normally have to be sent by the Foreign Office, first to the British embassy in Berne, then the Swiss foreign ministry, over to the Swiss embassy in Buenos Aires and then to the Argentine government. The reply goes to the Brazilian embassy there, back to the foreign ministry in Brasilia, over to the mission in London and thus back to the Foreign Office. Diplomats say they have learned to live with it.

But despite conflicting statements as each government feels its way forward, the indications are that contact between the two capitals – by however tortuous a route – will happen sooner rather than later.

Will the US Arctic come to Britain?

British newspapers and television are well served by the North American climate, as the current Arctic conditions demonstrate. The United States is so big, there is a good chance that some place, somewhere will be suffering from some form of extreme, whether it is drought, heatwave or blizzard.

Indeed, six of the last eight winters have featured record-breaking cold spells in some parts of the US east of the continental divide. It would seem either that such events are ceasing to warrant comment or the climate has changed dramatically, which could be even bigger news.

The truth is less simple. Clearly the present cold spell is exceptionally severe, breaking many low-temperature records and doing immense damage. But it still has some way to go to match the sustained cold of 1977, which precipitated the natural gas supply crisis and resulted in direct losses of more than $40 billion in current terms.

There is no proof that the climate has changed significantly. Despite the run of cold winters in the US, there is insufficient evidence to show that this is part of either a global cooling trend or that the climate has simply become more variable.

Where the picture is becoming clearer is in discovering why the weather gets stuck in such extreme patterns. Working with the example of January 1977, meteorologists at Princeton have used complex computer models of the global atmosphere to reproduce many features of that record-breaking month.

This and other studies suggests that a fundamental factor in such extremes is a slowing in the westerly winds that girdle the globe in the mid-latitudes of the northern hemisphere.

When these winds reach a critical velocity the effects of the Himalayas and the Rockies can combine to create a meandering pattern in the winds in the upper atmosphere.



Florida, in the Deep South sunbelt, is shivering through its coldest December since 1906, with temperatures in the low 20sF. This garden statue was left with its adornment of icicles when the fountain froze.

These then swing north over the Northern Pacific and plunge south over North America, sweeping Arctic air down across the US.

While this discovery holds out the prospect of improved weather forecasting up to a month ahead, it does not explain why such patterns have occurred so often in recent years. The answer may lie in changes in ocean surface temperatures.

Of more immediate relevance, is *whether Britain will also suffer. It is* commonly believed that when the US gets cold weather, it will be our turn a week or two later.

At the simplest level, this is a fallacy. The surges of Arctic air that hold America in their sway will be played out long before they can cross the Atlantic. However, the atmospheric patterns which result in such extreme weather may also feature similar meanderings lower down. So we could be in for a bout of Arctic cold.

On the other hand, because such patterns are not common, a further northward sweep of warm air, such as we are now experiencing, is just as likely.

So not too much can be read into the cold weather in the United States. We shall just have to hold our breaths to see whether we are destined to shiver or merely to watch smugly from afar.

W. J. Burroughs

Richard North

How to avoid being the guilty party

Little time is left to arm yourself with the Neurotic Party-Goers' Guide. Remember that your enemies are (1) your hosts, (2) drink, (3) yourself. There is a fourth, so devastating that, should you feel it coming on, get into your coat, gather up your loved ones and hit the street: (4) boredom. A bored guest is a dangerous guest. If your loved ones won't leave with you, go without them.

There is nothing you can do about your hosts: they are at war with you. Their purpose is liveliness and they will aim at a gamut which runs from an Ullapool trawlerman's brawl to Armageddon. They will have selected as formidable a front line as they can find. They will have engineered it that several of the guests dislike one another a great deal. They cannot lose: if their guest list lacks ferocity, it will invite boredom (see above) and will still have brought out the worst in you.

About drink, I think, there is little you can do. I advise against sudden shifts in policy: if you give it up too quickly, your nerves will accentuate your host's ability to deploy your own worst enemy – the enemy within. Remember, however, that most hosts go for the quick kill, while your nerves are at their worst. Early on in the proceedings, you will be most plied with drink: go steady at this point and you will stand a good chance of surviving the long haul. (Of all the advice, this part is the one I find most difficult to follow).

But the big problem will always be yourself. Parties are designed to be ever-exciting: they exist to make roomfuls of people go towards the edge of the known world and to peer over it, giddy with the hysteria passed from person to person, and adding their own barely controlled dementia to the brew. Dull people at dull parties know they have failed: the hosts' best hope is that they will be too dull to gossip about it. But the man who falls down the stairs in a drunken swoon, having tried to maul his best friend's wife, is not, by comparison, a failure. He is merely an over-achiever.

At parties there is that extraordinary moment – sometimes it lasts for hours and begins as the door is opened to one's timorous knock – when the jaw and the brain, both working flat out, seem to have no connexion.

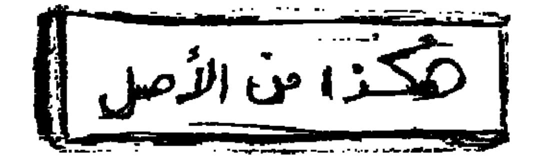
On and on flows the mad, endless stream – whole autobiographies, wild assertions, prognostications on every subject. This isn't too bad. The worst is to come: it is when you find yourself emboldened to denigrate So-and-So (a famous, powerful person, who might be very useful to you one day) in those terms of scornful denunciation you think Dorothy Parker would have used when she bumped into H. L. Mencken while Scott Fitzgerald stood by taking notes so that Neil Simon would have something for his next play. On and on the jaw chomps, through entire dictionaries of hate, ribaldry, and sneer.

Then the nice woman you're speaking to tells you how she has always been very fond of So-and-So, how he helped her a lot when her husband died.

(She may also say that So-and-So's wife has been very ill for years, and that he always speaks well of you). You are in freefall. The parachute won't open, the ground is rushing up toward you.

There is nothing you can do about it. You can only hope that when you come round in the morning you may begin a long life's repentance, get into yoga and take up reindeer farming in Nova Scotia.

Don't ask me how to avoid these pitfalls. To seek advice from me on these points is to ask the Pope how to get to a Brook advisory centre. One absolute rule I shall essay, and I don't know why it is so hideously true: "Never apologize, never explain." People will probably stop inviting you altogether if you start that nonsense.





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STEADY AS SHE GOES

The chill has gone from the economic air. There are forecasters who insist through disappointed teeth that we shall pay later for the warm spell they had not foreseen but elsewhere the mood on the eve of 1984 is moderate to good. Whereas in the summer even perennial optimists were infected by fashionable doubt, few now question whether recovery from recession is either genuine or lasting. The United States is setting a pace which only Japan can hope to match but Britain is among the leaders with an annual growth rate touching three per cent, and perhaps accelerating.

There are hopeful signs. Export prospects in important markets have brightened perceptibly as their economies begin to wax in the American sun. Unit labour costs are moving up no faster than those of our principal trading rivals and the fall in sterling which began late in 1982 has given pricing a more competitive edge. Exporters are clearly encouraged when they have a reviving home market at their backs. Recovery and greater optimism, decisively coupled with improving profitability, have had a similar revitalizing effect on investment. According to the most recent Department of Trade and Industry survey, manufacturing industry expects to invest nine per cent more in 1984 than in 1983. This is an unusually high figure and it reflects more than any other single statistic the change of mood in industry since the summer.

The argument is not about increasing exports nor about the level of investment but about the rate of consumer spending which together with rebuilding of depleted stocks has brought the economy out of the trough. The OECD believes that consumer spending will not be sustained and suggests that the best of the recovery may already be behind us. If the OECD is right it will be right for different reasons.

Since the middle of 1982 consumer spending has gone up by five per cent, with spending on durable goods rising by 25 per cent. Though disposable incomes after allowing for inflation have hardly risen at all since 1981 this has not been a deterrent. Falling inflation has stimulated the shopping urge, savings have been drawn down and plentiful credit from banks and building societies has covered any remaining gaps between means and ends. There is no sign of the spending spree subsiding and thus no real chance that the recovery will falter and fade on that account.

The domestic threats to recovery are the familiar ones of immoderate pay settlements and barriers to technological progress on which genuine advances in productivity depend. The crucial economic achievements of Mrs Thatcher's Government are a much reduced inflation and a slow but perceptible rolling back of the destructive power of outmoded trade unionism. Neither seems in jeopardy at the moment though some recent pay settlements, adding in wage drift, have been on the high side.

There is still a risk of higher interest rates, which if allied with unsubtly higher taxes in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Spring Budget, would bring economic growth stuttering to a standstill. Falling inflation and the Government's firm fiscal and monetary policies would by now have resulted in much lower interest rates had it not been for the persistently high level of interest rates in the United States. The overseas chorus of complaint against President Reagan's huge budget deficits, which are the reason for US rates being so high, has evoked no response. Nor is the President likely to respond until his own or his chosen successor's election is assured. The best the world can hope for is that interest rates will not be forced up before capital markets begin to anticipate lower rates when the presidential election is over.

As for Mr Lawson's first major Budget, he has enough options to avoid adding to the tax burden where it would hurt. If he uses them and seeks to redress the imbalance between current and capital outlays in the Government's own spending, then 1984 will be a significant year in the economic cycle: a year in which the momentum of economic recovery and industrial revival increased; inflation continued to fall; and unemployment, which in 1983 stopped rising, at last began to come down. It is an exciting prospect.

COMPETITION IN THE KREMLIN

President Andropov is clearly seriously ill, yet it is his supporters who have been promoted. The explanation is to be found in the Kremlin power struggle which invariably follows the emergence of a new Party General Secretary. Because he is chosen by the dozen or so men in the ruling Politburo rather than elected on the basis of universal suffrage, he cannot immediately change its membership. It takes several years to replace opponents, and even those who voted for the new leader do not wish him to become so powerful by introducing fresh faces that their own carefully accumulated authority is threatened.

President Andropov attained power despite the opposition of the Brezhnev faction, which supported the former leader's choice of successor, Konstantin Chernenko, and which now sees an opportunity to regain the ascendancy because of Mr Andropov's illness. If they fail, they will gradually be ousted from the central leadership. If they succeed, however, it will be the Andropov clique which goes. This battle has been fought continuously over the past year, only occasionally emerging in public in the form of obscure hints in the media.

The Chernenko faction reminisce about the good old days under the guidance of Leonid Brezhnev. The Andropov supporters place great emphasis on the campaign to eliminate the corruption and inefficiency of the past. Pravda recently carried two particularly strong attacks on the leadership of the Moldavian republic which was closely associated with the former leader.

The significant point is that even if Yuri Andropov cannot himself continue the process of ousting the Chernenko faction, his supporters must do so to preserve their own position. For younger potential successors such as Mikhail Gorbachev, 52, and Grigory Romanov, 60, the longer Mr Andropov remains at the top, the better their chances, since Mr Chernenko is 72.

Of those promoted this week, Mikhail Solomentsev, 70, remained for more than a decade under Brezhnev as Premier of the Russian Federation and a non-voting candidate member of the Politburo. Last June he took charge of the Party control committee, responsible for eliminating corrupt or politically inconvenient party members and he is now a full voting member of the Politburo. Mr Vitaly Vorontnikov, 57, brings its membership to 13. Removed to Cuba as Ambassador in 1979, he was brought back to replace a corrupt associate of Mr Brezhnev in July 1982 and later filled Solmentsev's vacancy as Premier of the Russian Federation, the largest of the 15 Soviet Republics.

The present head of the KGB, Mr Viktor Chebrikov, 60, for years Mr Andropov's deputy in the state security organization, is now one of six candidate Politburo members. Mr Egor Ligachev, 63, adds an eleventh member to the powerful Party Secretariat, responsible for drafting and executing policy under the direction of the Politburo. Mr Andropov brought him from far-off Tomsk to head the important department responsible for appointing party officials.

These promotions certainly weaken the position of the Chernenko faction, and if Mr Andropov is as ill as he seems, improve the prospects of Mr Romanov and Mr Gorbachev, who are members of both Politburo and Secretariat. Long after Mr Brezhnev had ceased to be capable of decisive leadership, he was allowed to retain his post in order to conceal the Kremlin's succession struggle. This may now be Mr Andropov's fate.

ON A POSTCARD PLEASE

The annual admiration contest run by Radio Four's Today programme must be the silliest survey in the polling calendar. Field work is conducted only among people who get up, or at least wake up, reasonably early. If you don't, you never hear about the poll. That excludes all well-rested minds preferring to grapple with life's problems only later in the day.

There is the further arbitrary elimination of everbody who does not have a postcard to hand. Even then the sample is wholly self-selecting, and it is unsafe to assume that those who write to the BBC form a typical cross-section of the literate population. The methodology is also at fault in being wide open to organized write-ins on behalf of causes. The BBC claims to be able to spot the hand of pressure groups, but does not say why it thinks it can tell spontaneous postcards from committed postcards when it gets them.

So, absolved from the necessity of taking the thing seriously, one can make what one likes of it.

With Olympian detachment, or hopeless indecision, the postcards put Mrs Thatcher at the head of one division and Monsignor Kent head of the other. There Man and Woman of the Year can salute each other across the gender gap. Mrs Thatcher, if she were someone else, would like to be Mother Teresa, who takes third place in the chart. Whether Mother Teresa would like to be Mrs Thatcher if she were someone else is not known. It is known that Mrs Joan Ruddock, runner-up in the women's section, would not like to be Mrs Thatcher and vice versa, though it may be supposed that she would like to be Monsignor Kent if she had to be a man. So would Ms Helen John, representative Greenham woman (placed seven out of ten); though perhaps Mrs Victoria Gillick (placed sixth immediately after the Princess of Wales), would not, even though Monsignor Kent would be unlikely to recommend contraceptives for her under-age daughters. Another point to notice in the women's section is the welcome appearance of Princess Anne, who pips her sister-in-law to fourth place.

Among the men Mr Eddie Shah of Warrington fame, second to the monsignor, is a new meteor in the sky. Mr Joe Wade, who has been around for some time, is nowhere. Must be a sampling error. Among the evergreens like Mr Lech Walesa and Mr Ken Livingstone (soon to be abolished) it is nice to see Lord Tonypandy. It says something for Today listeners that they can penetrate his new disguise to spot plain Speaker Thomas, whose mellifluous "Order, Order" used to come through at 8.40 as the signal to switch off.

It is sad about Mr Heseltine after his trying so hard. Beaten by the snooker champion into eighth place he has to watch Father Bruce run away with the spoon. Perhaps as guardian-in-chief of deterrence he has taken on a deterrent quality of his own, a sort of radio-repellent after-shave which confuses early morning listeners.

Justice for ratepayers

From Councillor Peter Davis

Sir, It is with some astonishment that I read in the press that some Conservative members of Parliament and peers are contemplating not supporting the Government's rate-capping proposals.

I live in one of the worst high-spending boroughs in the country – Lambeth. In only five years the left-wing Labour administration has raised our domestic rates by 236 per cent, with very little to show in improved services. They are now warning of a further rate increase of 30 per cent next March.

No government – whether Conservative or Labour – can be prepared to give an open-ended commitment of subsidising local authority spending through the rate-support grant. I believe that the Government has recognised the pleas of ratepayers, whether domestic or commercial, in extravagant boroughs like Lambeth and we fully support the Government's rate-capping proposals.

Those Conservatives who are wavering in their support for this manifesto commitment should do well to remember that there is not one rule for local authorities and another for Whitehall, nationalised industries and private industry. All these bodies have to recognise not only national economic considerations but also how much the contributors, whether they be taxpayers or ratepayers, can afford.

The only period of light in many years of gloom here in Lambeth was when our Conservative administration of five months last year quickly saved £3.5m and were able to make a tenpence reduction in the rate. As far as we are concerned, rate-capping for high spending local authorities cannot come quick enough.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAVIS,
Leader of the Conservative Opposition,
Lambeth Council,
Room 123,
Lambeth Town Hall,
Brixton Hill, SW2.
December 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Responsibility in police shooting

From Mr David Hamilton

Sir, The announcement last Thursday (report, December 23) that the Police Complaints Board has found that no one can be held to blame for the now famous attack by bullet, butt and boot upon Mr Stephen Waldorf nearly a year ago brings into sharp focus possible defects in the command structure of the Metropolitan Police and the role that officers are expected to play in it.

The marks of rank and respect that distinguish officers from constables are there for all to see. In return for these honours, are not police officers required to take responsibility for the men and women under them and be accountable for the operations they handle, in the same sort of way as officers in the Armed Services?

If they are, then it must surely now be asked why no officer from Kensington Police Station has stepped forward to at least share with his constables the responsibility for an operation which went so badly awry.

Who was in charge of the operation? Who issued the constables with their orders, and their guns, that evening? And why, when he did so, did he not appreciate that physical fear had so dramatically warped, or might dramatically warp, their judgment?

It may be some comfort for the people of London to know that the three constables concerned will never again carry guns, but, frankly, a more pertinent question that the Home Secretary should now be expected to answer is, will their superior officers ever again control constables?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HAMILTON,
164 Brixton Road, SW9.
December 27.

SDP coverage

From Mr Matthew Bryant

Sir, The logic and justice of the result, in terms of seats won, of the last general election was baffling to say the least, but some hope existed that the opinions of the millions of under-represented Alliance voters would still be heard both at Westminster and in the media, through their reporting of the parliamentary process.

However the scant coverage given in your paper's Parliamentary Report to the contributions of Liberal and SDP MPs during recent months hardly encouraged this hope and the events of the past week seem to have extinguished it.

Not only did the Government deem it fit to remove John Cartwright, the only SDP MP on the Defence Select Committee, from this committee in what was clearly a political manoeuvre most unbecoming of the of the whole ethos of the select committee system, but when I turned to *The Times* to read of these happenings and the subsequent protest of Dr Owen, it was in vain that I searched.

The one crumb of comfort to be gleaned from all of this is that the actions of the parties involved can only enhance the case for proportional representation; the question is: will it be reported?

I remain, Sir, your disgruntled servant,
MATTHEW BRYANT,
Brasenose College,
Oxford.
December 17.

Prosecution by stores

From Mr R. G. Prince

Sir, The incredible letter of Mr Recorder C. W. L. Jervis, (December 16) that there should be an absolute offence of taking goods without paying exposes the ever-increasing authoritarian nature of our judiciary.

Absolute offences are wholly contrary to our criminal law; and while certainly in the case of breaches of a *positive* duty mere negligence (coupled with the maxim *res ipsa loquitur*) should be enough to establish the necessary intent, the pernicious anomaly of the absolute offence should be abolished forthwith, by statute if necessary.

At the same time, in view of the enthusiasm with which especially magistrates' courts regard the passive act of walking off without paying (which was under the old law and still ought to be the *actus reus* of theft) as evidence of intent, what is required to protect the public against wrongful convictions of shoplifting is i. a change in the law of evidence such that intent must be established positively (e.g., by the possession of a "shop-lifter's pouch", or by running off with the goods when stopped); and ii. a reversal of the old procedural rule, such that criminal proceedings may not be instituted unless successful civil action has been taken.

This is a necessary test of the misappropriation of the goods.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. PRINCE,
112 Great Russell Street, WC1.
December 17.

Charities and the state

From the Director of the Family First Trust

Sir, As a voluntary organisation in receipt of public money via the Manpower Services Commission, the Urban Programme and the Housing Corporation, it must be assumed from your leader (December 17) that we are perceived as one of the less worthy charities that are causing you to worry.

Whilst not disagreeing with some aspects of your analysis, you have ignored the tight, almost stifling, controls that departments exercise over public funds. We are not, by any means, escaping the scrutiny of public accountants nor the oversight of ministers, but there is a gap, in their inability to properly judge value for money.

Voluntary organisations are often seen as necessary vehicles for the implementation of centrally determined programmes, but there is very little effective discussion to formulate policy.

Incidentally, these programmes are constantly hit by stop-go policies – as exemplified by recent budgeting "corrections" to the Housing Corporation and Community Programme funds – that create havoc to organisations aiming to run their affairs efficiently.

Using privately and publicly raised funds, voluntary organisations are able to pioneer and sustain major community services, building on local initiatives and innovative ideas, but there is a constant battle to make parliamentarians and Whitehall treat us seriously, except when expedient in the short term.

By all means call for a closer inspection of the voluntary movement, but at the same time the Government should ensure that all its departments working with the voluntary sector fully recognise our experience and potential by involving us more in the decision-making and evaluation processes.

Your newspaper could assist by reviewing in more depth the policies and practices of those Government departments that have aided the growing symbiotic relationships. A more detailed understanding of the voluntary movement might show that even more funds should be channelled in our direction.

Yours faithfully,
ANGUS WALKER, Director,
Family First Trust,
The Croft,
Alexandra Park,
Nottingham.
December 19.

Successes in housing policy

From the President of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers

Sir, Charles McKean made a number of valid points in his article of December 15, arguing the need for a long-term housing investment programme. However, he does not strengthen his case by omitting to take into consideration any of the successes of the Government's housing policy.

Private housing starts, at a forecast 165,000 in 1983, are now at their highest level for 10 years and through the use of partnership schemes more and more people are being given the opportunity to buy a home of their own.

The 90 per cent improvement grant proved almost embarrassingly successful, with renovations rising to an estimated 300,000 this year – not 43,000 as Charles McKean suggests – and the new technique of "enveloping" has proved an invaluable tool in the fight against urban decay.

Certainly, there are serious flaws in the Government's housing policy. Net capital expenditure on housing has fallen by 56 per cent in real terms since 1979-80. The arbitrary decision first to increase funding for improvement grants and then to withdraw those funds when the scheme proved successful has caused major problems for local authorities, householders and contractors. And the recent withdrawal of important draft circulars on land for housing will prove disastrous for the new households of tomorrow, unless they are rapidly reintroduced.

However, what is needed now is not hysteria about the collapse of the housing stock but rather reasoned and practical proposals for meeting households' requirements within available resources over the rest of this decade.

Less inertia and more energy is required from the Government, both in implementing successful schemes such as "enveloping" for the rehabilitation of inner urban housing and in combating the Treasury's traditional inclination to squeeze every possible pip out of capital receipts in the housing programme.

Pressure upon the Government to shift its stance on housing investment will carry more weight and credibility if backed by accurate facts and practical proposals.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE CHIVERS, President,
The National Federation of Building Trades Employers,
82 New Cavendish Street, W1.
December 22.

From Mr H. William-Olsson

Sir, Charles McKean's article (December 15) highlights a depressing situation where unemployment in the building trade is combined with a dangerous decline in the home market. Why does a Conservative Government, dedicated to the healing forces of monetarism, exclude these from a market so vital to human happiness?

Obviously the Rent Restriction Act must not be rescinded retrospectively. Millions, especially elderly people, need security of tenancy but if, *from today*, landlords were able to let without fearing that they would have to keep their tenants for ever, thousands of flats and rooms to let would come on the market. Young couples would not need to burden themselves with large loans at high interest in order to find a home at all.

As the demand for leases declined building societies would soon find themselves forced to lend to landlords for pure repair and maintenance work. As it is, the Rent Restriction Act drives the nation to allow vast capital resources in good Victorian houses to deteriorate while able building workers are forced to lengthen the dole queues.

It cannot be right to deprive landlords and prospective tenants of the elementary democratic right freely to negotiate agreements to their mutual advantage. An ugly suspicion creeps in that the present Government, which I support, maintains this anti-monetarist legislation because home-owning is supposed to make people conservative.

It would do much better to be radical and rethink the whole absurd and almost tragic situation in terms of its own economic philosophy.

Yours faithfully,
H. WILLIAM-OLSSON,
11 Fawcett Street, SW10.
December 16.

Keeping the peace

From Mr Daniel Gruenberg

Sir, Michael Adams's letter (December 21) implies that what the US regards as retaliation in Lebanon is a partisan action and not within the legitimate scope of a peace-keeping force. The crucial question, however, is whether American action is intended to, and is in fact, helping to bring about a ceasefire in the war waged by Syrian-backed rebels, that is denying Lebanon its sovereignty under the UN-recognized government.

On the basis that peace in Lebanon is dependent upon the withdrawal of all foreign forces – that Syria in occupation of over half of Lebanon refuses to withdraw simultaneously with Israel and is destabilizing the Lebanese Government in the small area it does control – an effective peace-keeping force cannot be regarded as non-partisan. It has the right to defend the Gemayel-led Government until the Lebanese army is equipped and trained to take over.

To quote from Robert McFarlane's press conference on "Euronet" (December 15): "The United States is willing to help them develop their military for that purpose, and so there is every prospect that withdrawal of all foreign forces can take place at a pace in which there is no vacuum created".

The force's role is consistent with the Constitution of the *Arab League* which issued in 1944, when formed, a Protocol stating that the signatories, which included Syria, "unanimously affirmed their respect for the independence and sovereignty of Lebanon within her present frontiers which furthermore their governments had already recognized" (article 4). King Hussein of Jordan in November, 1983, criticized Syria and Libya for their "role in Northern Lebanon".

The US-Israel alliance does not conflict with legitimate Arab interests, as it is based on a mutual interest in the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty and conciliation. It will ensure that Lebanon will not be used as a military base against Israel for the "liberation of all Palestine".

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL GRUENBERG,
139 High Street,
Hampton Hill,
Middlesex.
December 22.

Future of the GLC

From Mr Peter Waine

Sir, Mr Alderman and others (December 21) seem to take an unnecessarily pessimistic view about the proposed indirectly elected body to replace the GLC. Is that suggestion really so anti-democratic or wicked for a region which has 94 GLC councillors, 84 MPs, 32 boroughs (with about 1,600 local councillors) and a Court of Common Council with 120 representatives? The hard truth is that London is a contracting, over-governed region.

In practice, the GLC tier of government has not acted as a single voice representing Londoners, nor has it helped to arrest the decline in the region's infrastructure or in jobs; for example over the last decade we have lost a third of our manufacturing jobs compared with a national decline of a quarter and we are the only region to experience a net loss of service jobs over the same period. Indeed, the only growth industry seems to have been the political establishment in London.

I am surprised that such eminent academics can confuse bureaucratic waste with a sensible level of democracy. What on earth can we lose, therefore, by slicing off one tier of government? Indeed it could be argued that in strengthening the powers of the lower tier of local government local democracy is being strengthened.

Moreover it is quite consistent with our constitutional tradition of sensible reforms and periodic redistribution of power according to circumstances. It is wrong to suggest that a century of democratic local control of Londonwide services would end.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WAINE, Director,
London Region,
Confederation of British Industry,
Centre Point,
103 New Oxford Street, WC1.

Reddaway report

From Sir Duncan Oppenheim

Sir, What has happened to the Reddaway report?

Several years ago, when I was chairman of the Overseas Investment Committee of the CBI, we commissioned a report from Professor Reddaway on the effect of overseas investment on the economy of the United Kingdom.

I believe its findings still to be valid and I recommend Mr Robin Cook ("Time to bring back exchange control," December 19) to obtain a copy and study it.

The report did much to dispel the simplistic views of those who were claiming unqualified benefits to the economy of overseas investment and of those who, like Mr Cook, saw little but harm to the economy.

In particular, according to my recollection, it established that overseas direct investment did not take place at the expense of home direct investment.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN OPPENHEIM,
43 Edwardes Square, W8.

Lack of respect for the law

From Mr J. O. Thomson

Sir, Sir Alec Atkinson (December 23) draws attention to the apparent inconsistency between your *call* (December 17) for the law to be respected in the NGA dispute and your tolerance towards journalists' defiance of it in certain circumstances.

However, if one equates deliberate failure to enforce the law with disrespect for it, the Government itself is setting a bad example.

As you remind us in your leading article, "Price for the job" (December 20) this Administration dislikes wages councils and will be able to act against them in 1985, when the ILO (International Labour Organization) Convention can be denounced.

Meanwhile it is discouraging enforcement of existing regulations, a fact accepted by the Chairman of the Institute of Directors on BBC *Panorama* last Monday and denied by no one.

Many employers would welcome reform of the wages councils, but failure to enforce the existing legislation means that those of us who observe our statutory duties are placed at a competitive disadvantage by those who pay lower rates.

Can the law be sacrosanct when the lawgivers flout it?

The trade unions have been told to obey the law and try to get it changed if they do not like it. Does this not apply to Mrs Thatcher, too?

Yours faithfully,
J. O. THOMSON,
Managing Director,
P. H. Woodward & Co Ltd,
Parade,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire.

Looking after parks

From Councillor J. J. Haggerty

Sir, Robert Holden deserves support for his contention (December 14) that the main metropolitan parks owned by the GLC should continue to be funded on a regional basis.

Their administration by a joint board, similar to that proposed in the White Paper for other services in London, undoubtedly has its attractions. A multiplicity of joint boards for parks, historic buildings, museums, and similar functions could hardly be regarded however, as "Streamlining the Cities".

A more politically acceptable solution, if the GLC has to be abolished, is the establishment of a joint board for museums, arts and recreation. Such a joint board could embrace the GLC's current responsibilities in these areas including museums, the South Bank complex, parks, the National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace, archaeological services, cultural events and grants to voluntary bodies. To these functions might be added the GLC's Historic Buildings Division and the Greater London Record Office.

It is most unlikely that the London boroughs will be willing or able to undertake the majority of these responsibilities as proposed by the Government. The Area Museums Service for South-eastern England, the London Museums Consultative Committee and the London Federation of Museums and Art Galleries all support the idea of a joint board as outlined above.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN J. HAGGERTY,
London Museums Service,
34 Burners Lane Kiln Farm,
Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire.

Aid for the arts

From Mr Melvyn Bragg

Sir, I am delighted that Mr Priestley's enquiry into the finances of the Royal Opera House and the RSC has resulted in these companies being given more money (report, December 21). It is useful that an independent report should once again confirm the outstanding value for money – besides everything else – brought about by the small, enabling investment in the arts.

It would be a great pity, though, if Mr Priestley were to be confined to these two companies only. The unworthy suspicion would then surely arise that the Government was only prepared to shore up companies whose financial embarrassment would bring about public, even international, ridicule.

To be fair – and there is every evidence that Lord Gowrie, like the Prime Minister, strives to be fair – Mr Priestley should now be encouraged to go to Liverpool, Newcastle, Leeds, Glasgow, etc., etc. In my opinion, he would again and again discover very well run companies largely subsidised by their staff, and performers straining to break even and every bit as worthy of proper support as the RSC and the Royal Opera House.

Yours faithfully,
MELVYN BRAGG,
London Weekend Television,
Kent House,
Upper Ground, SE1.

Hitting a wrong note

From Mr Brian Champness

Sir, By describing the police car siren as a "horrible French-style donkey bray" in his letter of December 21 Mr Fyffe cast an unwarranted slur on a gentle and lovable animal.

The early morning call of our own donkeys, echoing over the beautiful Tamar Valley, can better be likened to the deeper notes of the Alpine horn, as I am sure our neighbours would agree.

In common with other angry donkey lovers, we would have hurled Wednesday's letters page to the stable floor, had it not been for the Court Circular overleaf.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN CHAMPNESS,
1 Crockers Row,
Gunnislake,
Cornwall.
December 22.

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duchess of Kent will present the British Forces Broadcasting Service sporting personality of the year award at the National Army Museum on February 2.

The Duke of Kent, as patron, will visit the National Army Museum, on February 14.

The Duke of Kent, as chancellor, will visit Surrey University on February 15.

The Duke of Kent will attend the annual meeting of the Fellowship of Engineering at St James's Palace on March 15.

Birthdays today

The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, 70; Sir Richard Beaumont, 71; Mr Bernard Cribbins, 55; General Sir Robert Ford, 60; Mr H. Andrew Freeth, 71; Professor L.C.B. Gower, 70; Mr S. M. Hornby, 49; Mr Gilbert Hunt, 69; Mr G. H. Newsom, QC, 74; Dr Magnus Pyke, 75; Mr Harvey Smith, 45; Sir Edward Stratten Williams, 62; Mr Jon Voight, 45.

Latest wills

Rear-Admiral Sir Leopold Edward Rebbeck, of Iping, Midhurst, West Sussex, ADC to King George VI and to the Queen, left estate valued at £319,454 net.

Lucy May Fox, of Overstrand, Norfolk, left estate valued at £116,979 net. She left all of her property equally between the National Trust, the British Red Cross Society, RSPCA, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, RNIB, RNLI, and the Fletcher Hospital, Cromer.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Archibald, Mr James Montgomery, of Westminster, chairman of the National Music Council 1974-80 .... £208,640

Burrill, Mr Lyonel Peckover, of Trefnant, Denbigh, Clwyd, chartered land agent £595,564

Cooper, Mrs Frances Mary Regina, of Bath, Avon £202,965

Hawley, Mrs Kathleen Rosemary, of Hadley Wood, Hert £213,525

Hemming, Mrs Winifred Grace, of Sheffield, South Yorkshire £207,986

MacLeod, Mr Ivor Mackenzie, of Bramfield, Suffolk £231,434

Poynter, Mrs Margaret Evangeline, of Earl's Court, London £203,588

Rose, Mr Stanley, of Westminster £214,503

Stafford, Mr Cecil Horne, of West Quantoxhead, Somerset, farmer £410,269

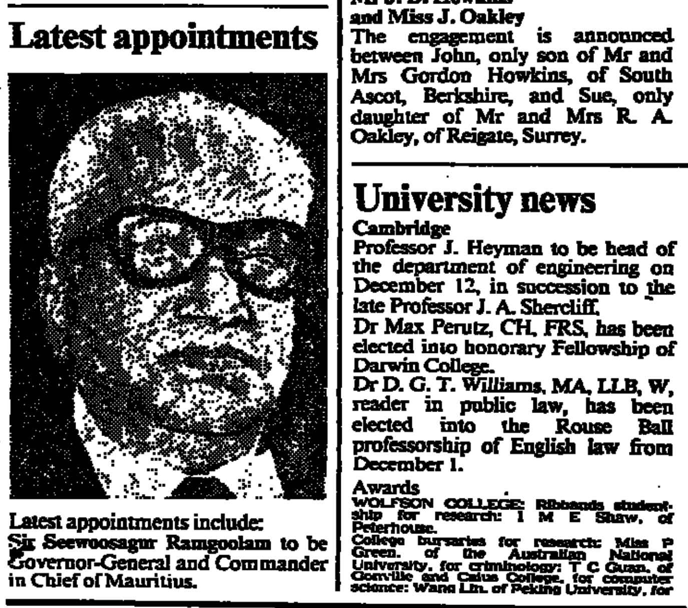
Verney, Hon Mrs Joyce Sybil Vivian, of Clifton, Hampden, Oxfordshire £309 393

Family triumph at bridge contest

The *Harpers and Queen* ladies' bridge championship, played at the Park Lane Hotel, London, on Tuesday, was won for the first time by a mother and daughter combination, Mrs J. Preddy and Miss K. Preddy, of Somerset, who finished 27 points ahead of internationals, Mrs L. Fry and Mrs P. Murphy. This was a fine performance in a field which included several former world and European champions.

Results
1. Mrs J Preddy, Miss K Preddy (Somerset) 2,424; 2. Mrs L Fry, Mrs P Murphy (London) 2,397; 3. Mrs K Batting, Mrs M Mathe (Sussex) 2,367; 4. Mrs M Curtis, Mrs B Kerr (Essex) 2,301; 5. Mrs K Garfield, Mrs H J Linfield (Sussex) 2,276; 6. Mrs A Murphy, Mrs F Stevens (Herts) 2,258.

Latest appointments



Latest appointments include:
Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam to be Governor-General and Commander in Chief of Mauritius.





Humorous glimpses of an England past

The work of some of Britain's best loved illustrators of the past 180 years will be on show at an exhibition at the Chris Beetles gallery, Randolf Avenue, west London in February.

More than 80 illustrators, from Gerald Scarfe to Arthur Rackham, and 300 works are featured. They include H. M. Bateman (1887-1970) whose *illustrations of the social gaffe, such as the man* in his club who refuses a drink because he isn't thirsty, have become a style in themselves.

***Punch* artists, from Charles Keene and Frank Reynolds to today's Honeysett and Bill Tidy, political commentators, magazine illustrators, *and fairyland artists will also be on show. There will be several works by E. H. Shepard* – (1879-1976), who illustrated *Winnie the Pooh* and *The Wind in the Willows*.**

Our illustrations show: (from left) Hugh Thomson's "The Lost Ball" (c 1900), Bateman's "Hope Springs Eternal" (1918), and "The Salesman" by Reynolds (c 1920).

The Exhibition will run from February 11 to 26, 10am-5pm daily.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. T. Thistlethwayte and Miss H. C. H. North
The engagement is announced between Seymour Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs Seymour Thistlethwayte, of Sheet Mill House, Petersfield, Hampshire, and Harriet Cordelia Henrietta, younger daughter of Sir Jonathan North, Bt, and Lady North, of Frogmore, Weston-under-Penyard, Herefordshire.

Mr I. D. Bullock and Miss A. B. Sole
The engagement is announced between Ian David, elder son of Mr and Mrs N. H. Bullock, of Barry, South Glamorgan, and Annie Barclay, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs P. L. Sole, of Glenbuchat, Aberdeenshire.

M J. M. L. Delandre and Miss N. M. A. O'Beirne
The engagement is announced between Jean, son of M André Delandre and the late Mme Delandre, of Grenoble, and Nicolette, daughter of Mr C. B. O'Beirne, QC, and Mrs O'Beirne, of Esher, and granddaughter of the late Dr Miloš Tupanianin and the late Mme Tupanianin, formerly of Grenoble and Belgrade.

Flight Lieutenant C. J. Ford and Miss S. A. Kidd
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Group Captain and Mrs J. P. Ford, of Croy, Inverness-shire, and Sheila, daughter of the late Major A. A. Kidd, RAVC, and of Mrs B. Kidd, of Milton-under-Wychwood.

Mr J. D. Howkins and Miss J. Oakley
The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Howkins, of South Ascot, Berkshire, and Sue, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. A. Oakley, of Reigate, Surrey.

Mr A. Ogden and Miss L. Skinner
The engagement is announced between Anthony Ogden, of Enfield, north London, and Lorraine Skinner, of Ealing, W5.

Mr N. D. Oliver and Miss M. G. O'Connell
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Danolds, eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs M. D. Oliver, of Priory Cottage, Chapel Lane, Pimperne, Dorset, and Mary Germaine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. O'Connell, of Roseneath House, Mill Road, Corbally, Limerick, Republic of Ireland.

Mr R. H. N. Perkins and Miss M. J. Marsden
The marriage has been arranged and will take place shortly between Noel, younger son of Mr and Mrs Maurice Perkins, of Barton House, East Anstey, north Devon, and Margaret, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Marsden, of Gaddesden Place, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

Mr D. F. Venn and Miss M. F. Fikret
The engagement is announced between Duncan Venn, Royal Anglian Regiment, eldest son of Group Captain and Mrs M. G. P. Venn, of RAF (H), Ely, and Filiz, elder daughter of the late Mr H. Fikret, of Cyprus, and Mrs E. Fikret.

Mr A. E. D. Windsor and Miss S. J. Hodgetts
The engagement is announced between Adam, elder son of Mr and Mrs B. G. Windsor, of Perrott House, Graffham, Petworth, West Sussex, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs C. L. Hodgetts, of Shrublands, Graffham, Petworth, West Sussex.

University news

Cambridge
Professor J. Heyman to be head of the department of engineering on December 12, in succession to the late Professor J. A. Shercliff.
Dr Max Perutz, CH, FRS, has been elected into honorary Fellowship of Darwin College.
Dr D. G. T. Williams, MA, LLB, W, reader in public law, has been elected into the Rouse Ball professorship of English law from December 1.

Awards
WOLFSON COLLEGE: Ribbands studentship for research: I M E Shaw, of Peterhouse.
College bursaries for research: Miss P Green, of the Australian National University, for criminology; T C Guan, of Gonville and Caius College, for computer science; Wang Lin, of Peking University, for economics; Miss M Gregg, of St Hugh's College, Oxford, for zoology.
Bursaries for medical research: Miss B A Blacklaws, of Aberdeen University, for virology; H W Davidson, of Surrey University, for clinical biochemistry; Miss J L Northey, of Wolfson College and Warwick University, for virology; J K O'Brien, of Wolfson College and Trinity College, Dublin, for clinical veterinary medicine.

London
Grants
QUEEN MARY COLLEGE: Eli Lilly International Corporation: £104,821 to Dr D C Ayres for research into cancer-inhibitory lignans.
Science and Engineering Research Council: £61,168 to Professor R Bonnett to study coal chemistry; £73,878 to Professor T J Poskitt and Dr L G Cuthbert for research into intelligent instrumentation for monitoring offshore piles; £179,603 to Professor P J B Clarricoats, Dr A D Oliver and Dr C G Pavini to study microwave antennae for satellite and terrestrial communication systems; £77,960 to Professor D C Leslie for research into the large eddy simulation of neutral and buoyant channel flows; £43,433 to Professor Pip Kalmus for particle physics experiments.
Newham Health Authority: £69,248 for a research fellow in health information and planning.
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food: £48,039 to Professor J H P Utley to study the utilization of lignins by electrochemical conversion and functionalization.
International Computers: £61,500 to Mr I Page for fundamental algorithms for computer graphics particularly algorithms suitable for parallel processors.

Aston
Honorary degrees have been conferred on the following:
MBA: Mr Ronald Leslie Amey, former director of postexperience studies in the faculty of management and policy sciences.
DSc: Dr Richard Gordon Forbes, lecturer in the department of electrical and electronic engineering.

'Throwaway mentality' blamed for the decay of churches

By John Young

Iconoclasm and indifference among all the Christian denominations in Britain are blamed in a new report by Save Britain's Heritage for the neglect and decay of hundreds of historic and beautiful churches.

The report castigates "attitudes which, in their unhealthy blend of the throwaway mentality of contemporary society and of supposedly Early Christian primitivism, attempt to provide a rationale for the destruction of church buildings."

The observation that the churches consist of "people, not buildings" has become the war cry of the iconoclasts in every denomination, it says.

Propaugandists who argue for a church devolved to people's homes, or using multipurpose community buildings, ignore the fact that people respond to the traditional language of architecture, preferring, for example, to live in conventional houses with pitched roofs rather than in large concrete blocks.

"The Church of England has pursued a policy of closing and demolishing the inner city churches of the larger cities, buildings which spoke out for real values against their tawdry and decaying surroundings," it adds.

"The assumption has been that anything is good enough for the inner city, the poor, whereas suburban buildings are left alone".

But the Roman Catholic and Free Churches are also guilty of similar indifference, the report says. The complete absence of an equivalent to the Redundant Churches Fund for non-Anglican churches was an anomaly which urgently needs a remedy.

Many churches were closed because of a conviction on the part of a diocese that radical reorganization was needed. That approch, akin to that of Dr Beeching to the railway system in the 1960s, was bureaucratic and defeatist.

Deserted Sepulchres (Save Britain's Heriage, 68 Battersea High Street, London SWII, £3.50).

Travel awards attract thousands of inquiries

More than 1,000 people have applied to be "British cultural diplomats" overseas under a British Council award scheme.

As part of its fiftieth anniversary next year the council decided to sponsor travel awards in collaboration with British Airways and British Caledonian.

Applicants aged at least 25 were asked to suggest a practical project to help to improve Britain's image overseas. Each award will be worth up to £1,000 and successful candidates can stay overseas for up to three months. Return air fares will be provided by one of the airlines.

When applications closed at the beginning of the Christmas holiday period more than 5,000 inquiries and 1,100 firm applications had been received for the 15 award places. A British Council panel is assessing applications and results will be announced in the spring.

A least one applicant has suggested China as the country for his project. Applicants include teachers, academics, lawyers, doctors, artists, writers, and photographers, as well as some unemployed and retired people.

Suggested projects include wild- life conservation, education of the handicapped, distance learning, such as courses run by the Open University, ethnic music, townplanning, low-cost housing, energy conservation and textile design.

Church news

The Rev M Belham, Vicar of St John, Hillingdon, diocese of London, to be also Area Dean of Hillingdon, same diocese.
The Rev D Barnes, Area Dean of North Camden, diocese of London, to be also a Prebend of St Paul's Cathedral.
The Rev V Brooke, Industrial Chaplain of Scunthorpe, diocese of Lincoln, to be Bishop's Industrial Adviser, Chesterfield area, diocese of Derby.
The Rev R Clements, Vicar of St Matthew, Rastrick, Diocese of Wakefield, to be Vicar of Horbury Junction, same diocese.
The Rev D V Cosser, Vicar of Brixham with Churston Ferrers, diocese of Exeter, to be Team Rector of the Brixham Team Ministry (Brixham with Churston Ferrers), same diocese.
The Rev O B Eaton, Rector of Alphington, diocese of Exeter, to be Chaplain of St George's, Barcelona, diocese of Europe.
The Rev O G Folkard, Vicar of Whaplode Drove and Gedney Hill, diocese of Lincoln, to be Vicar of Long Sutton, same diocese.
The Rev J Gladwin, Secretary of the General Synod Board for Social Responsibility, to be also a Prebend of St Paul's Cathedral.
The Rev L Gready, Vicar of St Cuthbert with St Hilda, Darlington, diocese of Durham, to be also Rural Dean of Darlington, same diocese.
The Rev F G Harte, Vicar of St Nicholas, Plumstead, diocese of Southwark to be Vicar of Sutton Bridge and Central Wingland, diocese of Lincoln.
The Rev R G L Hjorth, Chaplain at Ostende, Knokke and Bruges, Belgium, diocese of Europe, to be Chaplain of Christ Church, Dusseldorf, Germany, same diocese.
The Rev W A Howard, Curate of St Catherine, Mile Cross, diocese of Norwich, to be Rector of Grimston with Congham and Roydon, same diocese.
The Ven R B Jennison, Archdeacon of the Riviera, diocese of Europe, to be Rector of Finmere with Mixbury, Cottisford with Tusmore and Newton Purcell with Shelswell Diocese of Oxford.
The Rev D J Johnson, Chaplain of New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, diocese of Lichfield, to be also Prebend of Dernford in the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, same diocese.
The Rev M S D Leafe, Priest-in-charge of St Catherine's, Solihull, diocese of Birmingham, to be Vicar of St Barnabas, Wellingborough, diocese of Peterborough.
The Rev J M Loveland, Vicar of Kennington, diocese of Oxford to be Vicar of St Mark, Reading, same diocese.
The Rev J Richardson, Priest-in-charge of Hugglescote, diocese of Leicester, to be also Priest-in-charge of Ellistown, same diocese.
The Rev B J Robson, Eastern Area Secretary of the Church Pastoral Aid Society, to be Priest-in-charge of Tolleshunt d'Arcy with Tolleshunt Major, diocese of Chelmsford.
The Rev M B Sexton, Rector of Hethersett with Canteloff and Vicar, Ketteringham, diocese of Norwich, to be also Priest-in-charge of Great and Little Melton, same diocese.
The Rev T R Shepherd, Vicar of Holton-le-Clay, diocese of Lincoln, to be Vicar of Habrough group, same diocese.
The Rev J A Silk, Curate of Dorking with Ranmore, diocese of Guildford, to be Vicar of Kingsdown with Ringwould, diocese of Canterbury.
The Rev H Snape, Assistant Curate of Church of the Ascension, Stirchley, diocese of Birmingham, to be a Team Vicar of St Peter and St Andrew, Corby with Great and Little Oakley, diocese of Peterborough.
The Rev B Stevenson, Vicar of St Paul, Low Moor, Clitheroe, diocese of Blackburn, to be also Chairman of Blackburn Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility.
The Rev W D M Sturdy, Vicar of Cringleford and Colney, diocese of Norwich, to be also Priest-in-charge of Bawburgh, same diocese.
The Rev R B Swift, Vicar of Axminster with Woodbury and Priest-in-charge, Combe Pyne, diocese of Exeter, to be Team Rector, Axminster Team Ministry (Axminster, Chardstock St Andrew and All Saints, Combe Pyne and Rousdon) same diocese.

£12,500 literary prize to be awarded in July

The United Kingdom's largest single literary prize, of £12,500, will be presented for the first time in July, the Society of Authors said yesterday.

The Betty Trask awards 1984 will be given to authors aged under 35 for their first romantic or traditional novel. As well as the £12,500 first prize, there will be up to five £1,000 travel awards.

At the moment the Booker McConnell prize heads the literary awards list with a £10,000 first prize.

Miss Trask, who died last January, aged 88, left £400,000 to the society.

She said in her will that the money should be used to fund an annual prize "on the strength of a romantic novel or other novel of a traditional rather than experimental nature".

The authors must be Commonwealth citizens and must use the money for overseas travel with a view to increasing their knowledge for their future literary benefit. Closing date for entries in February 29.

Miss Trask, who lived at Frome, Somerset, was the author of more than 50 romances. During the 1930s and 1940s she was published at the rate of one book every year by William Collins and achieved consistently respectable sales with title such as *Love has Wings, Love has no Limits*, and *I Tell my Heart*.

Science report

Foil packs that could save five million children

By Tony Samstag

Diarrhoea infections kill five million children a year, reducing such microbial terrors as plague, smallpox or poliomyelitis to less than the common cold by comparison.

The cause of death is most often dehydration, a condition that many health workers in developing countries have found to be amenable to a treatment that is simple, safe, cheap, and easily administered at home.

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) is convinced that infant mortality from diarrhoea can be at least halved by the universal administration of oral rehydration therapy (ORT). One dramatic test in Jordan found ORT to be successful in 1,720 out of 1,732 cases; in Costa Rica, child deaths from dehydration have dropped by more than 80 per cent in hospitals since the therapy was introduced.

Diarrhoea infections not only drain the body of water and salts, but also inhibit their re-absorption through the intestinal wall. The absorption of sugars is not affected, however, and the sugars carry the salts and water with them, thereby increasing the absorption rate up to twenty-fivefold.

"In the past", Unicef says, "fluid replacement was considered a clinical problem challenging the finest arts of the pediatric specialist and his sophisticated laboratory", and involving complex and dangerous intravenous techniques. Oral rehydration salts, following a formula worked out by Unicef and the World Health Organization, is made up of 20 grams of glucose and 3.5 grams of salt to a litre of water, and cost only a few pence. A double measure of household sugar can substitute for the glucose if necessary.

The standard Unicef packets, prewrapped in foil, include 2.5 grams of sodium bicarbonate and 1.5 of potassium chloride, which are not essential but improve the efficacy of the treatment. Potassium, in any case, is found in many tropical fruits such as bananas, papaya, and green coconuts.

Any extensive use of ORT should ideally accompany contraception and education programmes, Unicef adds, but "a drop in infant mortality is the best contraceptive of all".

Source: *The State of the World's Children 1984*, by James P. Grant, executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund, and others (Oxford University Press, in a variety of editions priced from £3.50 to £9.95).

OBITUARY

DR DONALD CASKIE
Help for British wartime escapees

Dr Donald Caskie, OBE, Minister of the Scots Kirk in Paris for many years, who has died, helped many British servicemen in France in the Second World War to escape capture by the Germans.

A few hours before the Germans entered Paris in 1940 he made what turned out to be a hazardous attempt to get away, walking and cycling and sheltering where he could, until he reached the Biscay coast. Here there was considerable confusion and he thereupon decided to stay and help those for whom escape was going to be out of the question. He ultimately found his way to Marseilles and was instrumental in arranging the escape of British soldiers and seamen over the Pyrenees into Spain.

When his activities were discovered by the authorities he was sent to Grenoble to take up enforced residence. Subsequently he fell foul of the Italians who imprisoned him in San Remo; they handed him over to the Germans and at this period of his life he was in daily danger of execution.

Eventually, through the efforts of a German pastor he was reprieved and his internment came to an end with the arrival of the Allied forces at St Denis which was his final place of incarceration.

For his service he was made OBE. In 1945 the University of Edinburgh made him an honorary DD.

The son of Neil Caskie, he was educated at Bowmore Higher Grade School, Islay, and at Dunoon Grammer School where he was a gold medallist. He graduated at Edinburgh University in 1924 and took his Divinity Course at New College. He became Assistant Minister at the High Church, The Mound, Edinburgh.

He then went to Egypt where he spent a year doing Archaeological and Research work for the University of Michigan. His next post was in Canada at Dauphin Plains, Manitoba. Returning to Scotland, he became assistant Minister at St. Inan's Church, Irvine. He was invited to be Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Gretna in 1931 and in 1935 he was called to the Scots Kirk, Paris.

A few days after the liberation of Paris, the Scots Kirk was opened again and Caskie's home became once more the meeting place of Scots in a foreign land. His large, comfortable flat had always been "open house" not only to Scots but also to Dutch and Hungarian Protestants who had no Church of their own in Paris.

But after five years of disuse during the war, dry rot had made the Scots Kirk building dangerous and it had to be taken down. The indomitable Minister held his services in a small private cinema near by and set about finding £30,000 for a new building. But the Scots still had their Minister.

The fact that he spoke Gaelic meant much to an exile from the Highlands. Caskie himself was never an exile in Paris; it was perhaps because he made it his home that lonely Scots found a home with him.

FRIEDRIKE von WEDELSTADT

Friedrike von Wedelstädt, who died in Berlin on December 24 at the age of 89, played a crucial role in restoring and strengthening ties between British and German musicians in the years after the war. Within a few months of joining the staff of the British Centre (later Council) in Berlin in 1949, she had established a music club in its premises on the Lehniner Platz, which she continued to run until her retirement in 1969 at the age of 75.

The centre's ability to provide light and heat in the years of shortage after the war and the Soviet blockade gave the club a flying start, but it was Friedrike von Wedelstädt's gentle tenacity that made it a factor in the city's musical life.

The roll-call of British artists who appeared during its early years ranges from the Amadeus Quartet to Leon Goossens, from Clifford Curzon to Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears. Young German atists were also fostered: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau gave one of his earliest recitals in the Lehniner Platz and Hermann Prey won a competition sponsored by the Centre.

Over the years a host of visiting artists found their way to Frau von Wedelstädt's large, old fashioned flat in the Kantstrasse. As a result her sole visit to England in 1966 became a triumphal progress, so many were the eminent musicians eager to entertain her.

Herself an accomplished pianist, who as a fifteen years old schoolgirl had played before the German Empress, Friedrike von Wedelstädt came of a Prussian aristocratic family.

In the course of her long life she witnessed vast political and economic upheavals and endured much personal sadness. Yet a blend of sweetness, resilience, humour and wisdom enabled her to triumph over adversity, so that, even in her last years, when frail, increasingly afflicted by deafness and prone to mislay the lid of the teapot, she continued to radiate an extraordinary radiance of spirit.

She also had courage. A passionate horsewoman, she was thrown when well into her eighties. Undeterred, she resumed riding a few days later. It was, she insisted, only her morning ride that kept her in trim.

She was appointed an hon MBE for her work.

MR BOB KETTLE

Mr Bob Kettle died in hospital in London yesterday only four days before he was to take up the post of president of the National Union of Railwaymen. He was 61 and had been ill for some weeks. He was elected president by 39 votes to 38 at the union's annual conference in July.

A keen left-wing activist, he played a crucial role in the ending of Mr Sidney Weighell's reign as NUR general secretary in October 1982.

He submitted information when the union conference debated and accepted Mr Weighell's resignation after a row over the casting of the union's vote at the Labour Party Conference.

Kettle had served on the union's national executive for two three-year periods and at his death was secretary of the NUR London Transport District Council and for the Neasden number one branch. He had also served on the Labour Party's Conference Arrangements Committee.

Born in London he was a London Transport driver. For 14 years he was a Labour councillor in Willesden and became an alderman.

He was married and had a daughter.

COL SIR THOMAS MEYRICK

Colonel Sir Thomas Meyrick, third baronet, late 15th/19th Hussars, died on December 23 at the age of 84.

The only son of Brigadier-General Sir Frederick Charlton Meyrick, second baronet, he was born on November 28, 1899 and educated at Eton and RMC, Sandhurst. He was Equitation Instructor at Weedon from 1922 to 1927 and at Sandhurst from 1930 to 1934 in which year he retired.

He was honorary colonel 302 Pembroke Yeomanry Field Regiment R.A. (TA) from 1955 to 1959. He was Sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1938 and in 1955 president of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society. In 1968 he was chairman of the Pembrokeshire branch of the National Farmers' Union.

He was well-known in the hunting field and had been master of the Pembrokeshire the South Pembrokeshire and other packs of hounds. In 1972 he was president of the Hunters Improvement Society. He succeeded his father as third baronet in 1932.

He was three times married and is succeeded by the eldest son of his first marriage, Mr David John Charlton Meyrick.

BRIG JOHN BOWERMAN

Brigadier John F. Bowerman, CBE died in December, 18 aged 90.

Having been commissioned with the Yorkshire Regiment in 1915, he served in the 1914-18 war before being transferred to the Duke of Connaught's Own Baluchis in 1918, following with active service in Afghanistan, Waziristan and NW Frontier until 1930.

In the Second World War he served as Chief Liaison Officer 6th Chinese Army, Inspector-General Burma Frontier Force and Chinese American Forces.

Commander James Buchanan Findlay, CBE, who died on December 26 at the age of 88, was a former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Scotland. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Ayrshire in 1945.

Mr James Campbell Wallace, CBE, who died on December 22, was Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 1958-1963.

Correction

In the obituary of Dr James Aitken published on December 8, it should have been said that he was primarily a classicist. His first degree was at Edinburgh University, not Aberdeen, and was in classics. His doctorate was also awarded by Edinburgh not Oxford. His doctoral thesis dealt with George Buchanan's defence before the Portuguese Inquisition in the 16th century; it was also concerned with Buchanan's ability as a writer of Latin, and provided an English translation of his defence. Between his two Edinburgh degrees, Aitken was at Oxford, where he received BA and BLitt degrees.

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Brave new world for investment trusts

Next year will be the year of the investment trust – provided that the movement can market itself better and attract overseas cash.

During 1983 the FT-Actuaries Investment Trust index appreciated 38 per cent compared with an increase of 23.9 per cent in the FT-A All-Share index. Private investors have come back while institutional investors' interest has been whetted by better information from (some) investment trusts which have traditionally adopted a low profile. Mr Ted Sellers and Mr Garth Milne of Laing & Cruickshank, argue in the firm's 57th annual year book on investment trust companies, that the time has come for the investment trust industry to realize its potential.

They point out that during 1983 no less than 187 trusts outperformed the All-Share index and only a handful ("seven or eight") underperformed it. Yet despite the removal of the twin problems of exchange control regulations and the dollar premium, which dogged investment trusts in the 1970s, share prices are still at an average discount of about 25 per cent to assets. The reason for the continuing discount, they argue, is that the sector is too big for the British market; it therefore must go overseas, particularly to the US. They concede that the US is very insular in its investment outlook, but contend that investment trusts would be the ideal way for Americans to test the water of foreign markets. They say, rightly, that British trusts have a high degree of international investment expertise and a close relationship with overseas financial institutions which could produce new international financial groupings, attractive to overseas investors.

Two disadvantages under which investment trusts operate are an old-fashioned image and low management charges. Image should not be difficult to change. For many trusts it would mean no more than a change of name to something which had meaning for potential US investors (existing names are confusing and largely meaningless) and producing more information for shareholders.

The question of higher charges is more difficult to resolve: for years investment trusts have sold themselves on the good value they offer in terms of fees. Laing & Cruickshank would like to see, with specialist trusts, an increase in charges from about 0.3 per cent of assets under management to about one per cent. This extra income would be used to attract highly qualified specialist management and to market investment trusts. The difficulty is to persuade shareholders, who would obviously have to approve the change, that paying more would improve performance.

Certain trusts dealing for example in unquoted investments, need specialist advice and will have to pay for it. Overseas institutions now moving into the City might in any event pluck the best investment trust managers unless they are paid more.

Two developments the stockholders believe must come are investment trust-linked insurance policies, similar to unit-linked schemes, and direct participation in trust management by overseas institutions. Insurance linked schemes are almost certain to materialize in 1984. There are no special problems and the only surprise is that such schemes have taken so long to appear.

There are four other changes Laing & Cruickshank would like to see long term to reduce the discount to net assets. First, lower Stamp Duty, which would increase trading and turnover and increase interest and demand; second, the development of the Index Futures Market to spotlight investment trust shares as an attractive way for investors to hedge their positions; third, further relaxation of share buying-in legislation to allow trusts to buy in their own shares, a privilege already enjoyed by their US brethren; and lastly, the introduction of "portable pensions" to give a substantial boost to the size of pension funds managed by investment trusts.

Third bidder for Eagle Star?

Shareholders confused by the uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the rival bidding for Eagle Star by BAT Industries and Allianz Versicherungs might now give serious thought to the possibility that another bidder will emerge after tomorrow's deadline for bidding set by the Takeover Panel.

The Eagle share price fell by 10p to 707p yesterday as the market took stock of last-ditch discussions between BAT and Allianz aimed at reaching a solution before tomorrow's 4.30pm shoot-out. Yet according to usual reliable sources, there is a real possibility that a mystery third bidder will enter the fray once BAT and Allianz have produced their final bids.

The story is that a new bidder, perhaps American General in the US, although this is not confirmed, is waiting to see just how much it needs to pay to take Eagle Star from the clutches of the other two.

Officially, those involved in the bitterly disputed bid are keeping quiet. However, there have been indications from the Allianz camp that it would prefer to make a deal before the die is cast with each side placing sealed envelope bids with the Takeover Panel.

Ideally, Allianz would still like to finish up with a 40 per cent stake in Eagle Star to provide a footing in the British insurance market. Attempts to reach an agreement with BAT to achieve this end have been given a cool reception. With the bidding evenly matched at 675p per share and no sign of any agreement, the arrival of a third bidder on the scene would suit Allianz which is sitting on £150m plus profit on its Eagle Star shares.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle, this morning chairs a meeting of shareholders in London to approve technical change in the share structure which could reduce the amount of stamp duty paid after recent heavy dealings in the company's shares. Sir Denis has said that he will not be commenting on the bid at the meeting, which should be completed within a matter of minutes. But he, like the rest of the market, must be wondering just who will be running the Eagle Star empire next week.

Burton pays £3.5m for 93 Harry Fenton stores

By Jonathan Clare

The Burton Group has bought the 93-store Harry Fenton menswear chain, one of its main high street rivals, from Mr Murray Gordon's Combined English Stores.

The deal, which took only three days to complete, means that in a single move Burton will add about 120,000 sq ft to its trading area – equivalent to twice the amount it added in the whole of last year.

Both Burton and the City see the deal as compensation for its failure to buy the John Collier and Richard Shops chains from UDS this year after it was taken over by Lord Hanson's Hanson Trust.



Ralph Halpern (left) and Murray Gordon: quick deal

Burton is paying only the £3.5m asset value for the loss making chain, which trades through leasehold shops. Combined English Stores will retain freehold property which has a book value of a further £2.2m.

Richard Shops and John Collier, with a total of 450 outlets, would have cost Burton about £100m, but included much freehold property.

Last September Mr Gordon, Combined English Stores' chairman and chief executive, said that the absence of markdowns and good results from the new Studio shops in the chain should mean Harry Fenton was near breakeven in the year ending next month. The likelihood of better results meant yesterday's announcement came as a surprise to the market.

The sale of Harry Fenton, which lost £1.7m last year, boosted Combined English Stores' share price by 5p to 46p. Burton's share rose by 6p to 422p.

Mr Gordon said the deal was arranged after a chance encounter with Mr Ralph Halpern, Burton's chairman, 10 days before Christmas at a stockbroker's lunch.

The two companies started talks on the Tuesday before Christmas and signed the deal early on Christmas Eve with an official announcement yeaterday, the first day of trading on the Stock Exchange after the bank holiday.

Mr Gordon said that Combined English Stores had examined the menswear market closely and decided that it will become competitive and its shops would need heavy investment to survive.

He said that £6m would have to be invested over the next two years to increase the umber of Studio shops from 10 to about 40. During this period there would be little real profit.

Both Burton and Combined English Stores said they had not discussed a full bid for the whole company: Burton has previously been tipped as a potential bidder.

However, Mr Wood said he was quite happy to see Harry Fenton trading competitively against Burton's other outlets.

The sale of Harry Fenton will transform Combined English Stores' balance sheet and the positive cash flow from the remaining businesses will enable it to start a refurbishment programme.

The retained Harry Fenton properties, which are not occupied by Harry Fenton stores, would be worth £4m after refurbishment, giving Combined English Stores a total of £7.5m from the deal.

Mr Gordon concedes that the sale of Harry Fenton, coupled with the low share price, leaves the group vulnerable to a bid.

London and Liverpool chief quits

By Andrew Cornelius

Mr Jeffrey Bonas, has resigned as chief executive of London and Liverpool Trust, the troubled pub video and photocopier leasing company.

He said yesterday that he had resigned because he was "fed up".

His decision follows the appointment of Mr Astley Whittall as chairman of the company and Hill Samuel as financial advisers.

Mr Bonas said that he had been working under considerable pressure for a year and a half and that he now wanted to do other things.

He said he had every confidence in the future of London and Liverpool where the shares have plummetted from a high of 370p this year to 25p.

Mr Bonas said, he continued to support the board in its efforts to solve the group's problems and that he would retain his shareholding, 2.2 million shares (about 5 per cent of the equity).

There was no comment yesterday from Mr Whittall, a member of the Council of the Confederation of British Industry and a former president of the Engineering Employers' Federation.

Mr Whittall, who became chairman early last month, appointed Hill Samuel as financial advisers to the group in an effort to solve the problems surrounding its controversial pub video leasing deals. Lloyds and Scottish, the finance group, has refused to comment on stock market speculations that it is preparing to write off £7m of its £11m investment in the deals.

Controversy grew over the scheme to lease video machines to public houses when London and Liverpool made an unsuccessful attempt to win exclusive rights to screen Football League matches on the video machines.

In the year to March 31, London and Liverpool made pretax profits of £7.2m, but brokers have indicated profits in the present year will fall to £5m.

Inflation measures 'threaten recovery'

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Recession is the inevitable consequence of policies to reduce inflation, and attempts to squeeze inflation further are likely to prove incompatible with continuing recovery, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development says in a study just published.

The study concludes, contrary to the claims of some monetarist economists, that the impact of disinflationary policies on economic output is both severe and long-lasting, with output taking 5 to 10 years or more to return to long-run trend levels.

These results will make unwelcome reading for Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, whose economic strategy is based on the premise that progress towards price stability can be reconciled with steady growth. But the study does support the Government's contention that reflation of demand to speed recovery from recession, for the United Kingdom at least, tends to be dissipated in higher inflation rather than stimulate extra output.

The Paris-based OECD, whose 24 members make up the world's richest nations, studied the effect of changes in nominal national income (or money gdp) on inflation and output in each of the main industrial countries over the past three decades.

For Britain, 80 per cent of any change in nominal national income growth is absorbed by inflation within a year, the study concludes, though for the United States and Germany the compatible figure is 20 per cent or less.

Between 1973 and 1981, British money gdp grew by an average of 15.2 per cent a year, while real output rose by only 1.3 per cent a year, the OECD economists calculate.

Output responsiveness and inflation: an aggregate study by David Coe and Gerald Holtham in *OECD Economic Studies, No 1*, Autumn, 1983.

Logica in £2.18m US deal

By Derek Pain

Logica, the computer software house, yesterday announced its first takeover deal since it came to the stock market in October.

It is paying £880,000 cash with a further £1.3m spread over until August, 1986, for a California-based fledgling company called Intelligent Technologies International Corporation.

ITIC was started only two years ago. It is not yet making profits but Logica expects it to get into the black "within the next few months".

In the current Logica financial year, to end next June, the US acquisition is expected to produce a "small profit contribution". It will provide "an important addition to Logica's profit stream in future years".

Logica shares have been one of the new issue successes of 1983. They were offered at a minimum tender price of 140p. The striking price was 220p and yesterday they closed at 288p – down 2p.

The company sees its ITIC acquisition, with its software for mini-computers, as an important development in its US build-up.

ITIC was started by Mr Victor Amezcua and Mr Dan Gregerson, who remained with the company after the British takeover. Three Logica men have joined the ITIC board. The deal was completed just before Christmas

Stenhouse offer terms extended

Reed Stenhouse, which is bidding £53m for its Glasgow-based parent company, Stenhouse Holdings, yesterday extended its offer terms until January 11 and declared that they are final terms.

At the same time, it bought 1.12 million Stenhouse shares at 132¼p per share, about 3 per cent of the total equity, giving it effective control of 39.5 per cent of the shares.

Stenhouse Holdings, which held 49 per cent of Reed Stenhouse before the takeover bid, says the offer terms of one Reed Stenhouse share plus 20p cash for every five Stenhouse Holdings shares is inadequate.

Success for maritime tip-off fund

By John Lawless

A team of international trade crime investigators was told yesterday that the sinking of a ship, which resulted in a \$2.5m (£1.75m) insurance claim, was deliberately arranged.

It was the second tip-off received by the International Maritime Bureau – which is backed by leading companies worldwide – since it set up a fund to pay informers a few weeks ago.

Mr Eric Ellen, the IMB director, said yesterday: "One call came from someone who had been involved in a sinking, the other from a person who knows how it was done.

"No lives have been lost in either incident, but we believe that the crew was supposed to go down with the ship in the last one.

"Both incidents are now being investigated". He added that one ship was sunk in the East Mediterranean and a smaller vessel, worth about \$1m, is said to have gone down in the South China Sea when the engine-room valves were opened.

Mr Ellen, former chief constable of the Port of London Authority police, refused to disclose how much is in the informant's fund.

The IMB – which will open its first regional office in the Far East next year – saw its workload in 1983 increase 35 per cent, when instructed to investigate 105 cases. Only six involved scuttlings, with the largest single category involving 26 cases concerned insurance frauds.

It is also setting up a data bank to track the movement of containers worldwide.

Thought to be thief-proof when introduced 20 years ago, the containers seals are now being so expertly cracked that stolen loads are only discovered on delivery.

Markets celebrate

As 1983 draws to a close, world stock markets continued to scale new heights. Yesterday, it was the turn of the Frankfurt Bourse which bettered its previous best, set 23 years ago, with a rise of 10.9 on the Commerzbank Index to 1,044. Dealers remain in high spirits and predict that 1984 could see the index hit 1,200.

Frankfurt's record breaking run follows similar performances recently in Sydney, New York and Tokyo. Only Hongkong, where the question of sovereignty has upset sentiment, has failed to make much leeway.

In London share prices made little headway after the Christmas break, but the *FT* Index managed a rise of 0.6 to 775.6 – just 0.6 short of its record high achieved last week.

Foreign exchange markets were thin and lifeless, with little business now expected until after the New Year holiday. The pound closed in London up 20 points against the dollar at \$1.4350 and showed little change against Continental currencies.

Market report, page 15

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 775.6 up 0.6
FT Gilts: 83.37 up 0.22
FT All Share: 470.01
Bargains: 16,804 up 0.76
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 75.93 up 0.14
New York: Dow Jones Average: (latest) 1260.26 down 3.46
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,893.82 up 9.88
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 874.15 up 6.85
Amsterdam: 161.0 up 1.6
Sydney: AO Index 765.6 up 3.1
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1044.0 up 10.9
Brussels: General Index 136.77 unchanged
Paris: CAC Index 155.5 up 1.3
Zurich: SKA General 316.90

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
\$1.4350 up 20pts
Index 82.5 unchanged
DM 3.95 unchanged
FrF 12.08 down 0.0050
Yen 335 unchanged
Dollar
Index 130.1 down 0.2
DM 2.7526 down 0.0039
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4365
Dollar DM 2.7500
INTERNATIONAL
ECU£0.571602
SDRNot available

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 9 1/16-9
3 month interbank 9 3/8-9 5/16
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 15/16-10 1/16
3 month DM 6 5/16-6 1/16
1 month Fr F 13½-13⅝
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 3/8
Treasury long bond 101 5/32 101 9/32

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$379.10 pm \$378
close \$377.50-\$378.25 (£263-£263.50)
New York latest: \$379
Sovereigns* (new): \$89-90 (£62-£62.75)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

6,000 jobs boost for industry

The number of jobs in manufacturing industry rose in October for the first time since the recession began in mid-1979, according to figures published yesterday in the Department of Employment's *Gazette*. The increase of 6,000 was immediately welcomed by Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, as a further encouraging sign of Britain's recovery.

He said that while it was dangerous to put too much emphasis on one month's figures they fitted into the pattern of declining job losses in manufacturing and the pickup in employment in the service sector.

There was further good news for the Government yesterday. Th number of days lost through strikes in 1983 is likely to be below 4 million and the lowest since 1967, with the exception of 1976, according to figures for the first 11 months of the year. Meanwhile a survey has claimed job prospects in the first three months of 1984 will be more favourable than during any first quarter for four years. The survey, of 1,260 leading employers, with more than 3 million workers, was carried out for Manpower Ltd, the temporary services company.

● The West German Flick industrial group must repay DM450m (£113m) granted as a tax concession. A government spokesman said the economics ministry had nullified the tax rebate because it had been based on incorrect facts.

The tax concession was awarded on the proceeds of the sale of a large Flick stake in the Daimler-Benz group. Most of the funds were reinvested in the US chemicals group W R Grace. A condition for the tax rebate was that the new investment served the national interest.

Battle over Theakston's heads for High Court

By Our Financial Staff

Battle for control of T and R Theakston, the Yorkshire brewery famed for its high strength Old Peculier beer, now seems likely to be decided in the High Court.

The two declared bidders – and there is continuing speculation that others lurk on the sidelines – are Matthew Brown and Co the Blackburn-based brewing group, and William Grant and Sons, the unquoted, family controlled company famed for such whiskies as Standfast and Glenfiddich.

One segment of the Theakston family and board backs the Matthew Brown offer which has been increased from 64p a share to 71p. The rest of the family and board is behind the 88p a share offer from William Grant.

The High Court involvement revolves around the validity of acceptances of the Matthew Brown offer.

Theakston's articles of association include the condition that any selling shareholder must first offer the shares to other existing shareholders.

Backing the Matthew Brown bid are the chairman, Mr Paul Theakston, who, with his immediate family, accounts for some 11 per cent of the shares, and the London Trust

But the Theakston London Trust control is challenged by other directors, including the managing director, Mr Gerry Thomas and another member of the Theakston family, Mr Michael Theakston. They have about 35 per cent of the capital and want to accept the higher William Grant offer.

Talbot faces split from parent group

French shadow on Ryton's future

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

Armed riot police stood guard last night outside the strike-torn Talbot plant at Poissy, on the outskirts of Paris, as management, unions and workers planned their next moves in a bitter, long-running dispute.

On Tuesday, a court at Versailles ordered workers to allow "free access" to part of the plant they had been occupying to protest against planned redundancies. That order empowered the board of Peugeot, which controls Talbot – formerly Simca, which was owned by the US Chrysler corporation – to ask police to eject workers.

Instead senior managers were working on a plan to move ownership of Talbot from its current parent, the Peugeot-Citreon group to companies named SA Talbot and Sora SA. That move, which the board will consider on January 5 could insulate the Peugeot group from troubles at its Talbot subsidiary, thus avoiding the whole company being dragged into bankruptcy.

Peugeot lost F Fr 1.9 billion in 1981 (then about £190m) and F Fr2.1 billion last year (about £175m). In late November, a group spokesman said the 1983 figures would be "far from breakeven". Most of the losses have been at Talbot.

For that reason, Peugeot to shed 2,902 of the 13,500 jobs at Talbot – Poissy. The unions resisted that move; and after much hesitation the Government intervened recently with a compromise plan for 1,905 lay-off. The unions refused to accept, and since just before Christmas up to 500 workers have been occupying the plant, bringing porduction to a halt. On Tuesday night, cars parked near the plant were set on fire.

Racial issues have worsened tension. About 53 per cent of the Talbot workers are immigrants, most of them Moroccan, and they have complained of neglect by the unions. Many of them are making their own demands – among them that the company improve on its redundancy pay offer. They want a minimum of F Fr 200,000 (about £16,500) so that they can go home.

Peugeot wants to lop, in all, 7,500 jobs in France. But it might settle for less if it could sell Talbot – including its Spanish and British operations.

But a buyer for Talbot would probably be hard to find. It still owes £28m to the British Government, the rump of a loan made to rscue Talbot when it was owned by and known as Chrysler, which took over from the Rootes Group.

Furthermore, the future of British Talbot leans heavily on its Ryton factory's assembling the new Peugeot 205 model rather than making new Talbot vehicles. So a divorce would raise problems. But those are puny when compared with Peugeot's pressing need to stem its financial haemorrhage

Two months ago, the Peugeot president, M Jean-Paul Parayre, made clear in London his group's determination to invest considerable sums, probably as much as £50m, in the Ryton plant near Coventry although there must now be fears for the security of the 3,000 workers, Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent, writes.

Talbot UK made a first-half profit of £1.5m this year against a £40.6m loss a year earlier.

Pennzoil in \$1.6bn offer for Getty stake

New York, (NYT) – The Pennzoil Company jumped into the family feud that has shaken the Getty Oil Company on Tuesday night by offering to buy 16 million shares of the West Coast oil producer for \$100 each. The \$1.6 billion (£1.1 billion) acquisition would give Pennzoil a 20 per cent holding in Getty.

Pennzoil is beginning lawsuits in several federal district courts to invalidate certain state takeover laws that may apply to its offer.

A Getty spokeman said the company was "totally surprised" by the offer, but declined to comment further until the offer had been reviewed.

Getty is the 14th largest US oil company in assets while Pennzoil ranks 32.

One Wall Street oil analyst said he thought the Getty shares were worth far more than Pennzoil offered – possibly as much as \$140 to \$150 each.

Getty stock rose \$15⅝ to \$96 on Wall Street yesterday. Pennziol was up \$¾ to \$33½.

Pennzoil's chairman Mr Hugh Liedtke, said "Our objective is to acquire a substantial equity interest in Getty Oil with the view to participating in a constructive way in the formulation and implementation of a restructuring of Getty."

Pennzoil said it is acting independently of other major shareholders in Getty and has not had discussions with the other holders.

Getty and its chairman, Mr Sidney Peterson, have been locked in a battle for control of the company with Mr Gordon Getty, son of J. Paul Getty, the company's founder. Mr Getty, the sole trustee of the Sarah C. Getty Trust, and Mr Harold Williams, the president of the J. Paul Getty Trust and the J. Paul Getty Museum, control the two biggest blocks of stock.

The Sarah Getty Trust controls 31.8 million shares, or 40.2 per cent of Getty's 79 million shares outstanding. The J. Paul Getty Trust and the Museum together control 9.3 million shares, or 11.8 per cent.

It is unclear whether the shares in the Sarah Getty Trust, which is named for J. Paul Getty's mother, can be sold. According to some lawyers, the trust prohibits the sale of such stock until after the death of Mr Gordon Getty and two brothers, Mr J. Paul Getty Jr. and Mr Ronald Getty. However, one Wall Street analyst said Pennzoil probably would not have gone ahead with the offer unless it thought it could break the trust.

In its filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Pennzoil said it planned to talk to Mr Gordon Getty and Mr Williams.

It added that it had not receive any indication from Mr Gordon Getty, Mr Williams or the company that any of them were interested in developing or effecting any restructing proposal.

Pennzoil said that it had no plans to buy more than 16 million shares, but that it reserved the right to make purchases on the open market, through private purchases or a tender offer. It said it owns 593,900 shares, or less than 1 per cent of the company.

The financing for the purchases will come largely from production payment, with the balance from corporate funds. Pennzoil said that New Dunstan would finance such payments through loans from 29 banks led by Citibank of New York. It said it also had \$250m available from a group of banks headed by Mellow Bank of Pittsburgh.

WALL STREET

New York (AP-Dow Jones) – Stocks remained lower in moderate early trading yesterday with about 41 million shares traded.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 2½ points while the transportation index fell 2½ points. The utilities index remained off by only a fraction of a point.

Advances continued to trail declines by about seven-to-six.

Mr John Burnett, a vice-president of Donaldson Lufkin & Jenerette, said the stock market was once again reacting to the bond market which was slipping.

IBM was down ¾ at 123⅞ while Texas Instruments was down 1 at 137½.

Getty Oil was up 15⅝ at 96. Pennzoil started a tender offer for it in the morning. Pennzoil was up ½ at 33¼. Watkins Johnson was up ¾ at 84¼. It declared a three-for-one stock split. Honeywell was off 2 at 135¾

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	†10¼%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	*9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6¼%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 6¾%; £50,000 and over, 7¼%.

RECENT ISSUES

MARKET REPORT ● by Michael Clark

Investors take a break

·ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Today, Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

It has been a bumper year in the equity market, so investors decided to rest on their laurels yesterday and enjoy the extended Christmas and New Year break.

The FT Index closed 0.6 up at 775.6 – just 0.6 short of the record high, achieved last week – and around 30 per cent up on the closing index of 598.9 set on January 4, this year.

Much of the improved sentiment stemmed from Wall Street's overnight 13-point improvement, although turnover was pitifully low with stock shortages responsible for many of the price rises.

Leading shares again attracted what interest remained with US enthusiasm responsible for a 10p lead in **BTR** at 429p, while **Distillers** added 2p to 238p on Saturday's article in *The Times* suggesting that a mystery buyer had picked up about 4 per cent of the shares. Mr Jimmy Gulliver of Argyll Group tipped as a possible bid candidate said: "I do not own a single share in Distillers."

On the oil spot market in Rotterdam prices rose 50 cents above the official Opec levels giving some long awaited support for oil shares. **BP** stood out with 6p rise to 401p, while **Britoil** added 2p to 195p, Clyde

The decision by Imperial group to preempt a possible Budget increase and raise prices of most of its brands by up to 2p a pack – just a couple of months after its last increase – has grabbed the imagination of most analysts. Broker de Zoete & Bevan reckons most of the other manufacturers are likely to follow Imp's lead which should result in a boost in profits. Imp's held steady at 141p.

Petroleum 3p to 113p, **Lasmo** 7p to 277p, **Shell** 5p to 561p and **Ultramar** 3p to 612p. Among the second liners **Pict Petroleum** hardened 18p to 151p on publication of the annual report and accounts.

Gilts failed to hold on to earlier gains of up to £1, despite the pound making further improvements against the dollar on the foreign exchange where it closed 55 points up at $1.4350. In longs the rises extended to 50p by the close, but at the shorter end dealers reported nervous selling after hours resulting falls of up to £1/16.

Over on the Unlisted Securities Market shares of **Federated Housing** were unchanged at 50p after reaching agreement with the Crouch Group to develop the bulk of the residential development interests owned by Crouch.

The 16-month agreement is worth £4.6m to Crouch, which will receive to cash in instalments with the balance due in 1985. The deal is expected to greatly boost Federated's present operation. In return The Meyer family, which control Federated has agreed to sell Crouch 1.8 million shares in the company amounting to 20 per cent. This reduces the Meyer stake from 55 per cent to 43.8 per cent.

The board of **Electronic Machine Rentals** is worried by the recent surge in the share price. Yesterday it issued a statement stating it knows of no reason for the rise. The shares added 6p to 78p.

The penny share experts have been casting an apreciative eye over Lister & Co, the textile group, up 4½p at a new high of 50p. After three years of losses, out of the last four, the experts are hoping for a return to the black this time around. If not, ICI's near 20 per cent stake might open up some interesting situations.

Hales Properties, the Birmingham-based property development dealing company, is in takeover talks. The group's share price leapt 20 per cent to 100p after it announced it was in talks with a mystery suitor. At this level the group is valued at £2.8m. The Wesleyan & General Assurance has a 25 per cent stake.

Refuge Assurance has increased its stake in Leopold Joseph, the exclusive merchant bank which is 26 per cent owned by two German banks, from 8.75 per cent to 10.65 per cent.

A spokesman for Refuge said there was no particular significance in the increased shareholding. "We think that merchant banks, generally, are a good investment at present, given the changes that are going on in the City. Leopold Joseph has been left behind in the recent run up of the sector", he said.

Shares of Leopold Joseph closed unchanged at 308p.

Epicure Holdings, headed by Mr Reg Brealey, chairman of Sheffield United Football Club, has increased its stake in The London Pavillion by picking up 8,600 shares amounting to 6.6 per cent of the equity. Epicure closed steady at 36½p

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

MEDIUMS

LONGS

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A—B

C—E

F—H

I—N

O—S

T—Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

PLANTATIONS

MISCELLANEOUS

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Sterling: Spot and Forward



Money Market Rates

Other Markets

Dollar Spot Rates

Euro-$ Deposits

Gold

APPOINTMENTS

New Year change at Fisons

Fisons: Mr J. S. Kerridge has been appointed deputy chairman and chairman-designate, with effect from January.

McTay Engineering: Mr Barry G. Hulme has joined the company as managing director.

Datasolve Bureau: Mr Ian Taylor has become managing director of the computing services. Mr Alan K. Batterbury has been promoted to director of sales and marketing.

Hill Thomson: Mr B. W. Burton has been made a director. He retains his position of sales director of Geo Sandeman.

R. Nivison & Co: Mr P. R. Colville and Sir Richard G. C. Rasch will retire on Saturday. Mr R. T. Eddleston, Mr D. A. Platts and Mr E. N. Langley will join the partnership in January.

Chubb Fire Security: Mr R. J. Bell has joined the board as European operations director.

Associated British Ports Holdings: Mr Maxwell Creasey becomes a non-executive director from January 1.

Neighbourhood Stores: Mr John G. Adams has joined the board.

The Scottish National Trust: Mr A. J. Struthers becomes chairman to succeed the late Mr R. F. Denholm. Mr Struthers is head of J. & A. Gardner & Co.

Lloyds and Scottish: Mr David Pirrie, a general manager of Lloyd's Bank, has been made a non-executive director following the resignation of Mr Brian Pitman, on his appointment as group chief executive of Lloyd's Bank. Mr Max Harper Gow, a vice-chairman of The Royal Bank of Scotland, has joined the board as a non-executive director.

Catalin: Dr Reginald J. McLean, divisional manager of Resins; Mr David F. Palframan, divisional manager of impregnated papers; and Mr James Moy, export manager, have joined the board. Catalin is a subsidiary of Ruberoid.

Golding Stewart Wrightson: Mr A. H. C. Colls has become chairman with Mr H. W. G. Stamper as chief executive and Messrs. C. R. Engeham and L. N. Marden as joint deputy chairmen. The directors of Stewart Wrightson (Reinsurance Brokers) have joined the board of Golding Stewart Wrightson.

Insurance Brokers Registration Council: Mr Henry V. White-Smith has been elected chairman.

Marketing and Advertising: Torin Douglas

Airports Authority prepares to unfold its wings

The definition of an airport as a shopping centre with parking for aeroplanes is acquiring a fresh meaning as the British Airports Authority comes to terms with its position as one of the country's most important retailers.

The BAA has embarked on a big expansion on its retail side. It will be formalizing this in the New Year with the setting-up of a new marketing arm, British Airports Trading. BAA is now recruiting senior managers from catering, retailing, car-hire and other specialist areas.

This move has been prompted less by the fact that the BAA is seen as a target for privatization – though the marketing drive will add to its investment appeal – than by the realization that the airports' commercial activities have been subsidising their running costs to an ever-increasing degree.

In its last full year, almost half the BAA's income came from commercial – as opposed to air-traffic – operations. Traffic income (from landing fees and aircraft parking) fell by 5 per cent to £152.5m, but commercial income (which includes rents and concession activities such as duty-free and duty-paid shops, car-hire and catering) rose by 12 per cent to £131.2m.

On the aircraft side, the BAA made a pretax loss of £24.5m, while its commercial side showed a profit of £63.1m – up by almost a third on the previous year.

The BAA takes a share of its concessionaires' sales and in the last three years its income per passenger has risen by 47 per cent, from £1.32 in 1979–80 to £1.94 in 1982-83.

The formation of British Airports Trading – with a staff twice the size of the BAA's commercial division – is designed to produce even better figures: Mr Allan Blacher, who has set up the operation, is confident there is plenty of room for growth.

He says: "The potential is enormous, and not just in duty free, which is what most people think of as the airports' commercial area. Take something like hotel bookings. Our research shows that hotel reservations are made by fewer than half of one per cent of all passengers arriving at our airports. Of course, not everyone wants a hotel booking but I think it is reasonable to guess that more than half of one per cent of arriving passengers need a hotel. That smacks to me of opportunity."

Mr Blacher assumed the new post of commercial development director this year after 19 years marketing for Carreras, Rothmans and Thomas Cook. He declares: "The diversity of the opportunity – the size of it – is absolutely overwhelming".

Car rental and parking, catering, banks, insurance, hotel bookings, the sale of advertising space and a continually expanding variety of shops come under Mr Blacher's wing. Last month, two computer shops were set up by W H Smith at Heathrow and their sales are ahead of target.

An international business centre has also just opened at Heathrow, complete with conference rooms, multilingual secretaries and electronic communications. Other plans include flower shops, a handmade chocolate store, fruiterers, a bakery and shoeshine operations.

But the duty-free operations remains the airports' biggest money-spinner, and despite its already profitable performance, Mr Blacher sees a great deal of potential here, too. The BAA is expanding the duty-free shop at Gatwick – already one of the largest in the country, at about 750 square metres – by building out on to a slip road at a cost of £1m.

The new shop, which is intended to be in business in June in time for the peak holiday season will be a massive 1,250 square metres, giving a much better service.

"Gatwick sales were 40 per cent up at one stage last year and we simply couldn't take any more because of the space," says Mr Blacher.

But it is not merely by expanding the sales area that trade can be boosted. Even though duty free goods are considerably cheaper than in the high street – the BAA believes its liquor and tobacco prices are half those outside - only one in two of all outgoing passengers visits the shop. As soon as he arrived, Mr Blacher started an extensive research effort to find out why.

Some people say that the problem is the inconvenience and weight of the bottles; so the

BRITISH AIRWAYS TURNOVER

	1982/83 £000	1981/82 £000
Traffic Income		
Landing fees including security charges		
Commercial air transport movements	114,451	122,796
Other movements	2,803	2,937
Total landing fees	117,254	125,733
Aircraft parking	25,699	26,333
Apron and other services	9,504	8,357
Total Traffic Income	152,457	160,423
Commercial Income		
Concessions		
Retail outlets	54,924	48,005
Catering	4,799	4,677
Advertising	849	666
Car hire	3,691	3,165
Public car parks	12,189	10,693
Other	7,874	7,158
	84,326	74,394
Rents and Services		
Rents	22,391	19,226
Services	24,168	23,175
	46,559	42,401
Miscellaneous Income	331	267
Total Commercial Income	131,216	117,062
Total Income	283,673	277,485

BAA is intoducing lightweight plastic bottles on some lines. Others say they simply do not need any cigarettes or liquor.

Others again say the goods are too expensive: further research tends to show that they believe prices are higher than they really are.

To counter the price objection – and the fact that many people may just not get around to buying goods – Mr Blacher has introduced new advertising and sales promotions, costing £2m, which are already showing results. The latest advertising campaign, by Lowe & Howard-Spink Campbell-Ewald, puts the emphasis on branded goods with puns such as "Smirnoff with Moneyoff" and "Teachers on half terms".

So far, the BAA is funding the campaign. But once it has proved successful, it may well ask companies to contribute the cost if they want their brands featured, as do most high street retailers. After the Smirnoff poster was put up outside Glasgow Airport, the brand's market share rose by four percentage points.

The promotions, handled by two specialist firms, Ingram Group Promotions and International Marketing and Promotions, have also boosted sales.

In the summer, a voucher giving people £2 off perfume if they spent £10 on drink and tobacco lifted perfume sales by almost 80 per cent. A current promotion is now producing a similar increase in gift sales.

Mr Blacher says: "There is a huge potential for such promotional activity. How many other retailers have their non-buyers sitting outside the shop for half an hour at a time, waiting to be addressed?"

It is not just duty-free sales which can benefit. On the catering side, a Beaujolais Nouveau promotion last month trebled wine sales in some airports. It is this potential that Mr Blacher regards as crucial: though the airports already sell an enormous quantity of some items – the BAA's million bottles of perfume a year make it the biggest seller of perfume in Britain – they could still be selling much more.

There is another, less obvious, opportunity for promotions which will be introduced in the New Year. One of the problems the BAA has is maintaining a high quality of staff in its concessionary outlets. "We're not the employer – the concessionaires are – but we get the brickbats if the service is not good," says Mr Blacher. "We shall be setting up a 'quality of service' campaign, operated by one of our sales promotion companies, encouraging staff to produce better service, to smile and be friendly."

Every other area of commercial activity is being studied. Better quality catering – with a wider choice of places to eat – is being introduced. Better merchandising, in terms of design, layout and lighting, is being examined, with a dozen design firms working on projects which could lead to much bigger contracts as the shopping and eating areas are overhauled.

There is one big problem however. This is the chance that the duty-free allowance for people travelling between EEC countries might be abolished, which could mean a loss of income to BAA running into eight figures.

The threat is still some way off. But it gives another reason why the BAA should be developing the entire range of its commerical activities and not merely promoting its duty-free sales.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES

Rubber in £s per tonne; Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per metric ton; Gas-oil in US $ per metric ton.

RUBBER	
April June	858–60
July Sept	869–70
Oct, Dec	878–80
Jan Mch	887–93
April June	898–902
June, Sept	909–12
Oct. Dec	918–32
COFFEE	
Jan	2001–07
March	1926–27
May	1837–38
July	1790–97
Sept	1770–73
Nov	1750–67
Jan	1700–20
COCOA	
Dec	1950–53
March	1980–81
May	1955–56
July	1933–36
Sep	1908–09
Dec	1867–69
March	1852–56
SUGAR No 6	
Mar	204.80–205.20
May	214.60–214.80
Aug	222.60–222.80
Oct	230.60–230.80
Dec	236.20–238.20
Mar	252.00–252.80
May	259.00–261.00
GAS OIL	
Dec	251–51.75
Jan	254.25–54.50
Feb	252.75–53.00
March	248–48.25
April	244–44.5
May	242.5–43
June	240–43.00
July	241–44.00
Aug	238–44.00
CRUDE OIL	
Feb	unql
Mar	29.00–unql
April	29.10–29.15
May	28.85–28.95

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Unofficial prices. Official turnover figures. Prices in pounds per metric ton. Silver in pence per troy ounce. Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report

COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Cash	977.5–78.5
Three months	1004–04.5
T.O	11,400
Tone Steady	
STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	959.5–61
Three months	985–87
T.O	250
Tone Quiet	
TIN STANDARD	
Cash	8310–20
Three months	8475–80
T.O	565
Tone Easier	
TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	8390–8400
Three months	8505–10
T.O.	40.
Tone Easier	
LEAD	
Cash	279–79.25
Three months	289–9.25
T.O	1225
Tone Quiet.	
ZINC	
Cash	604–05
Three months	618.5–19
T.O	900
Tone Quiet	
SILVER LARGE	
Cash	604–05
Three months	626.5–27
T.O	31
Tone Barely steady	
SILVER SMALL	
Three months	626.5–27
T.O	nil
Tone Idle	
ALUMINIUM	
Cash	1016.5–87.5
Three months	1115–18.5
T.O.	3,100
Tone Steady	
NICKEL	
Cash	3238–42
Three months	3318–19
T.O	528
Tone Quiet	

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET

In US $ per oz

Jan	377.00–379.00
Feb	381.00–381.50
April	387.00–388.00
June	393.00–394.50
Aug	399.50–401.50
Oct	406.00–407.50

Tone: Quiet Volume 81.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES

Rudolf Wolff Financial Services Ltd.

Month	Volume	Settlement
YEN		
Mar '84	10	4318
Jun '84	-	4358
Comment: Stronger		
STERLING		
Mar '84	78	14383
Jun '84	-	14400
Sep '84	-	14425
Comment: Steady		
D-MARK		
Mar '84	81	3665
Jun '84	-	3699
Comment: Improving.		
SWISS FRANC		
Mar '84	1	4625
Jun '84	-	4698
Comment: Quietly firm		
EURODOLLARS		
Mar '84	1635	8991
Jun '84	121	8958
Sep '84	133	8933
Dec '84	11	8910
Mar '85	-	8890
Comment. Mixed		

Bishop's improves

By Vivien Goldsmith

Bishop's Group, the supermarket and wholesaling group which is the subject of a bid from Booker McConnell, owner of Budgens supermarkets, has announced interim pretax profits of £200,000 on a turnover of £76.2m.

Mr John Bradfield, Bishop's chairman says that the level of profits "is still below an adequate level. The dividend has been raised from 1.5p to 2p.

Interim profits last year were a bare £1,000 on turnover of £77.6m.

The 'A' shares stand at 210p. The Booker McConnell offer, valued at £12.8m, is 291p for the ordinary shares and 221p for the 'A' shares. The terms have been accepted by the Bishop's directors who control 61 per cent of the ordinary shares and 51 per cent of the 'A' shares. There is also a loanstock alternative at 9.5 per cent dated 1989.

RTD cuts its losses

RTD Group, the Dublin-based generator manufacturer, yesterday announced that its recent history of losses continued into the first half of this year.

In the six months to the end of August, the company lost £61,000 (£44,000) against £96,000 last time. No interim dividend will be paid.

The company aims to return to profitability all its trading subsidiaries; to reduce the burden of debt, to tighten financial controls and reduce central costs and to reorganize the share capital by converting preference shares into ordinary shares.

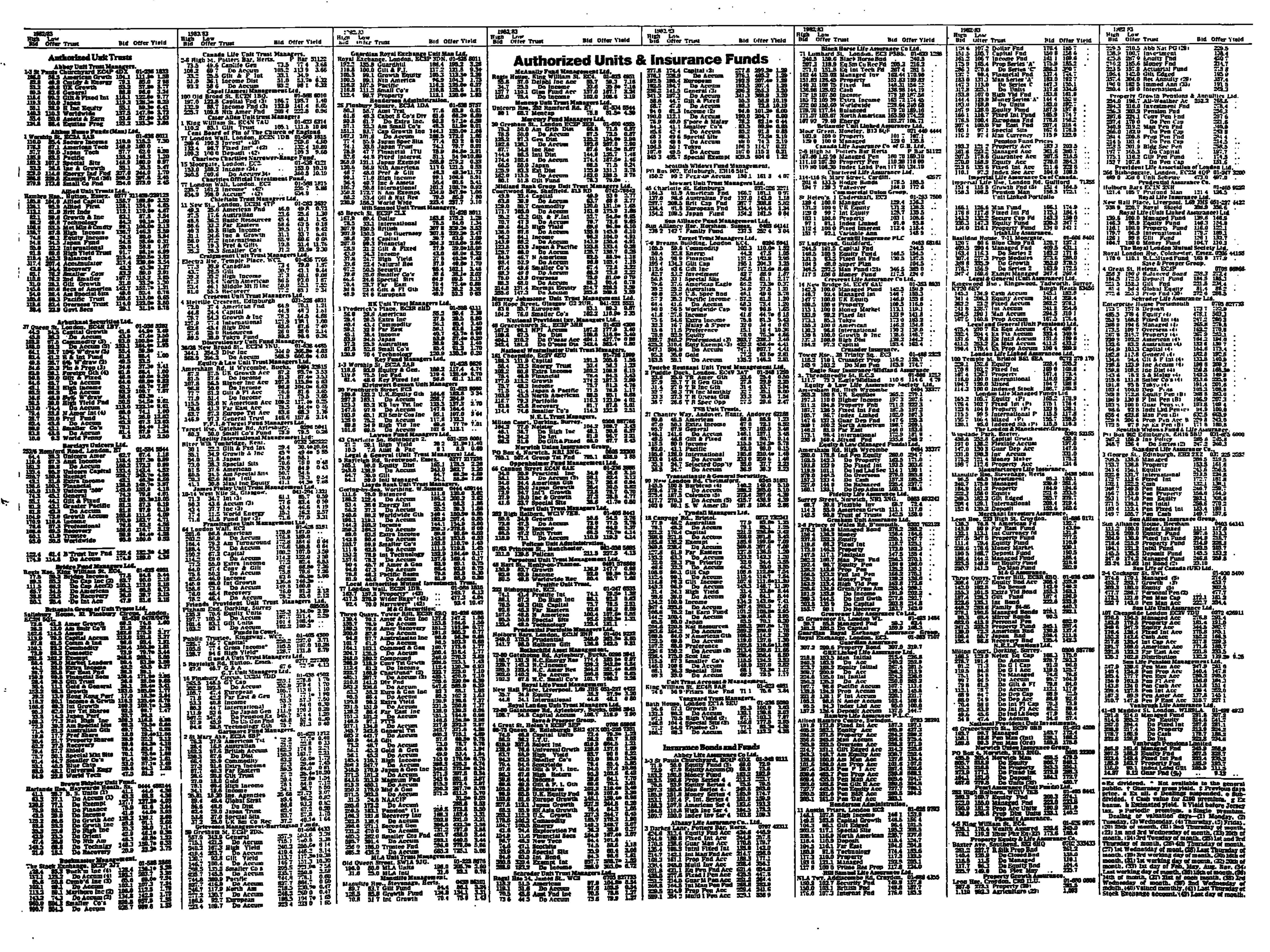
WALL STREET

	Dec 27	Dec 23
AMP Inc	16⅛	16⅜
AMR	35⅜	36⅞
Allied Chem	55⅜	54⅝
Allied Stores	49	46⅝
Allis Chalmers	16⅛	15½
Alcoa	45	45⅜
Amax Inc	24	23⅝
Amerada Hess	27½	27¾
Am Brands	59¼	58⅝
Am Broadcast	55¾	54⅝
Am Can	47¼	47¼
Am Cyanamid	48⅝	48⅞
Am Elec Power	17⅞	17⅞
Am Home	50⅝	49⅝
Am Motors	6⅞	6⅞
Am Nat Res	44⅝	44
Am Standard	30½	30⅝
Am Telephone	61	61¼
Armco Steel	20½	20¾
Asarco	28½	29
Ashland Oil	27⅞	27¾
Atlantic Richfield	43⅝	42⅝
Avco	31⅛	30⅝
Avon Products	25⅝	24⅝
Bankers Tst NY	45⅜	45⅜
Bank of America	21⅜	21⅛
Bank of Boston	39⅜	39⅝
Bank of NY	32½	32⅝
Beatrice Foods	31⅜	32¼
Bethlehem Steel	27⅞	27½
Boeing	45⅝	45⅝
Boise Cascade	44	43⅞
Borden	56½	57
Borg Warner	25	23⅝
Bristol Myers	42¾	42⅝
BP	22⅝	22⅞
Burlington Ind	35⅜	34⅝
Burlington Nthn	95⅛	94
Burroughs	51⅜	50⅝
Campbell Soup	62⅝	62⅝
Canadian Pacific	40⅛	40⅛
Caterpillar	48⅞	48¼
Celanese	71⅜	71
Central Soya	14⅞	14⅞
Chase Manhat	44⅝	44⅜
Chem Bank NY	44	43⅞
Chrysler	27⅞	27¼
Citicorp	36⅝	36⅞
Clark Equip	38	37
Coca Cola	54⅜	55⅛
Colgate	21⅞	21⅞
CBS	64⅝	64
Columbia Gas	34⅝	34⅛
Combustion Eng	33⅝	32⅛
Comwlth Edison	25⅝	25½
Cons Edison	24⅜	24⅛
Cons Foods	26½	26⅛
Cons Power	14⅞	14⅞
Continental Grp	51⅞	52½
Control Data	46	44⅛
Corning Glass	68⅛	68
CPC Intnl	38⅜	38⅛
Crane	30⅝	31
Crocker Int	24½	24⅛
Crown Zeller	38⅝	38⅝
Dart & Kraft	67½	67
Deere	37¼	38⅛
Delta Air	39⅛	40
Detroit Edison	13⅞	13⅞
Disney	51⅛	51⅝
Dow Chemical	31⅞	30⅝
Dresser Ind	19⅝	18⅝
Duke Power	25	24½
Du Pont	51⅞	51⅛
Eastern Air	6⅝	6⅝
Eastman Kodak	76½	75⅛
Eaton Corp	54⅛	54⅛
El Paso Nat Gas	23⅝	23⅝
Esmark	42½	42½
Evans P. D.	9⅝	9⅝
Exxon Corp	37⅞	37⅛
Fed Dept Stores	53⅜	54⅝
Firestone	22⅝	22⅛
Fst Chicago	24⅛	28⅝
Fst Intrst Bncp	42	42⅜
Fst Penn Corp	6⅛	6⅝
Ford	44	43⅝
GAF Corp	16⅛	16⅜
GTE Corp	43⅝	42⅞
Gen Dynamics	58⅝	57⅛
Gen Electric	58⅞	58⅛
Gen Foods	51¼	51
Gen Mills	51⅛	51½
Gen Motors	75⅛	74⅛
Gen Pub Util NY	8	8⅛
Gen Tire	38⅛	38½
Genesco	7½	7⅝
Georgia Pacific	24⅝	24⅜
Getty Oil	80⅛	80⅞
Gillette	48½	49
Goodrich	30⅞	30
Goodyear	30	29⅝
Gould Inc	30⅛	30⅝
Grace	44⅞	44⅝
Gt Atlte & Pacific	11⅞	11⅜
Greyhound	23⅝	23
Grumman Corp	25⅝	25⅝
Gulf Oil	42⅝	42⅝
Gulf & West	30⅜	29⅝
Heinz H. J.	36⅝	36⅝
Hercules	35	35⅛
Honeywell	138⅛	137⅛
IC Inds	48	47⅞
Ingersoll	52	51⅞
Inland Steel	31	30⅝
IBM	124⅛	123⅞
Int Harvester	12⅝	12⅞
INCO	14⅞	14⅛
Int Paper	58⅜	58⅛
Int Tel Tel	44⅝	44½
Irving Bank	53⅝	52½
Jewel Co	46⅛	46
Jim Walter	37½	38⅛
Johnson & John	40⅝	40⅝
Kaiser Alumin	18⅛	18⅝
Kerr McGee	28⅜	28⅝
Kimberly Clark	93⅝	93⅝
K Mart	34⅝	33⅝
Kroger	35⅝	35
L.T.V. Corp	18	17⅞
Litton	68½	68⅝
Lockheed	39½	38⅝
Lucky Stores	19	18⅛
Manuf Hanover	37⅞	37½
Manville Cp	11⅛	11⅞
Mapco	23⅝	23⅛
Marine Midland	23⅝	24
Martin Marietta	38⅛	39½
McDonnell	59	59⅛
Mead	40	38½
Merck	90⅛	89⅝
Minnesota Mng	84	82⅝
Mobil Oil	28⅞	28⅝
Monsanto	106⅛	104⅜
Morgan J. P.	67⅝	67⅛
Motorola	135½	133½
NCR Corp	126⅛	125⅞
NL Industries	15⅞	15⅛
Nabisco	41⅞	41⅜
Nat Distillers	27⅛	28½
Nat Med Ent	22⅝	22⅛
Norfolk South	63⅜	62⅝
NW Bancorp	33⅛	32⅛
Occidental Pet	25	25
Ogden	29⅝	30⅛
Olin Corp	30⅝	30⅛
Owens-Illinois	37	37
Pacific Gas Elec	15	15
Pan Am	8⅛	8⅝
Penney J. C.	57	56⅛
Pennzoil	32⅝	32⅝
Pepsico	37⅛	37½
Pfizer	38⅛	38⅛
Phelps Dodge	25	25⅛
Philip Morris	72	72
Phillips Petrol	33⅛	33⅛
Polaroid	32⅝	31⅝
PPG Ind	34⅛	33⅝
Proctor Gamble	57½	57
Pub Ser El & Gas	22⅝	22⅛
Raytheon	44	44
RCA Corp	34⅛	34
Republic Steel	28	27½
Reynolds Ind	60	59⅝
Reynolds Metal	39½	39⅛
Rockwell Int	33⅝	33⅛
Royal Dutch	43⅛	42⅞
Safeways	36⅝	36⅝
St Regis Paper	34⅝	34
Santa Fe Ind	29⅞	29⅛
SCM	35⅛	35⅝
Schlumberger	50⅛	47⅝
Scott Paper	31⅛	33⅛
Seagram	37	36⅞
Sears Roebuck	37⅛	36⅛
Shell Oil	39⅛	37⅞
Shell Trans	31⅝	31⅞
Signal Co	33⅞	33⅞
Singer	23⅝	23⅛
Smithkline Beck	55½	55½
Sony	15⅝	15½
Sth Cal Edison	41⅛	41⅛
Southern Pacific	39½	39½
Sperry Corp	46½	48
Std Oil Califnia	34⅛	33⅜
Std Oil Indiana	45⅜	48⅛
Std Oil Ohio	44	43⅝
Sterling Drug	27⅛	28⅝
Stevens J. P.	19⅝	19
Sun Comp	42	42
Teledyne	161⅞	161⅛
Tenneco	41	40⅝
Texaco	36⅛	35⅝
Texas East Corp	58⅝	58⅝
Texas Inst	138⅛	139⅝
Texas Utilities	25⅝	25⅛
Textron	33⅛	32⅝
TWA	38⅞	37⅞
Travelers Corp	31⅞	31⅞
TRW Inc	80⅛	79
UAL Inc	36	36⅛
Union Carbide	63	62½
Union Oil Calif	30⅛	30⅛
Un Pacific Corp	50⅛	50½
Uniroyal	17	16⅝
United Brands	15⅛	15⅝
US Industries	26⅞	16⅝
US Steel	29⅝	29⅛
Utd Technol	73	72⅝
Wachovia	45⅛	45⅛
Warner Comms	25⅛	25
Warner Lambert	29	29½
Wells Fargo	39⅛	39⅛
Westnghse Elec	56	55⅝
Weyerhauser	33½	34⅛
Whirlpool	48½	48⅝
Woolworth	35½	36⅛
Xerox Corp	49⅛	49⅛
Zenith	35	34⅛

Canadian Prices

	Dec 27	Dec 23
Abitibi	24½	24½
Alcan Alumin	48⅛	45⅛
Algoma Steel	23⅝	23⅛
Bell Telephone	32⅝	32⅝
Cominco	58½	59⅛
Cons Bathurst	26½	26½
Gulf Oil	16½	16½
Hawker/Sid Can	18⅝	18⅝
Imasco	35⅛	35⅛
Imperial Oil	36½	36½
Int Pipe	33⅝	33⅝
Mass.-Fergsn	5⅛	5⅞
Royal Trustco	28⅛	28⅛
Seagram	46⅝	48⅝
Steel Co	29⅝	29⅛
Thomson N 'A'	38½	38½
Walker Hiram	28½	28½
WCT	14⅝	14⅞

• Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

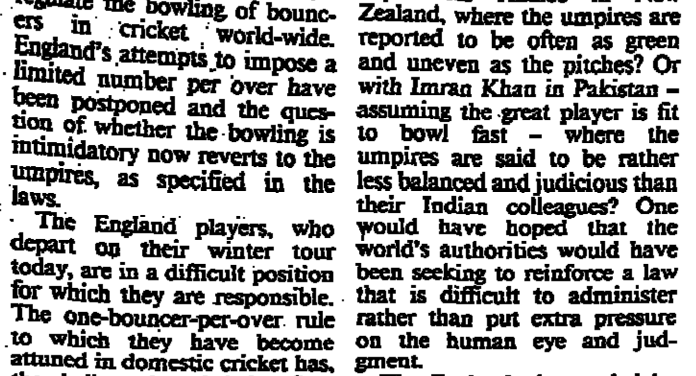


Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

CRICKET

Pressure on umpires as England face a barrage of bouncers

By Derek Hodgson



Only umpires will now regulate the bowling of bouncers in cricket world-wide. England's attempts to impose a limited number per over have been postponed and the question of whether the bowling is intimidatory now reverts to the umpires, as specified in the laws.

The England players, who depart on their winter tour today, are in a difficult position for which they are responsible. The one-bouncer-per-over rule to which they have become attuned in domestic cricket has, they believe, slowed their reflexes to such an extent that they have become a much easier target for the pace attacks of Australia and West Indies.

A firm definition of intimidatory bowling can be expected from England's senior umpires. But how will lesser officials cope with an incessant barrage of bouncers, especially those aimed at the batsman from round the wicket, tactics now being used by Malcolm Marshall in India?

How will England's batsman cope with Hadlee in New Zealand, where the umpires are reported to be often as green and uneven as the pitches? Or with Imran Khan in Pakistan – assuming the great player is fit to bowl fast – where the umpires are said to be rather less balanced and judicious than their Indian colleagues? One would have hoped that the world's authorities would have been seeking to reinforce a law that is difficult to administer rather than put extra pressure on the human eye and judgment.

The England players, led by their captain and fast bowler, Bob Willis, would probably dismiss these forebodings and instead point to England's strengths. Three of the four seam bowlers in the party, Willis, Dilley and Cowans, can bowl genuinely fast and are therefore capable of trading bouncer for bouncer whether it be with Hadlee, Imran or, next summer, the West Indies.

The capacity to match Clive Lloyd's battery of pace bowlers, and that of Australia, who tour England in 1985, would be Willis's most welcome legacy to his successor. If Dilley and Cowans can return from this tour as fully-fledged international fast bowlers and if Foster can enlarge and improve upon his already formidable virtues of line and bounce, then Willis's days as the lone ranger, like Alec Bedser before him, will be over.

Ian Botham, fresh from his attempts to terrorize Scunthorpe United's opponents, is reported to be fitter than for some time – always good news for England – and the presence of the two spinners, Marks and Cook, means that England could, if they chose, once more field a fully-balanced Test attack. At some point on this tour, as on every one since 1978-79, someone somewhere will wish for Edmonds's skills.

The battng offers a series of interesting combinations. The energence of Smith gives England the opportunity of fielding two specialist openers and he and Fowler, right and left-hand, "the Rock" and "the Fox", could settle into a partnership.

This would enable both Tavaré and Gower to revert to what has always seemed to be the more natural positions for their temperaments – at numbers three and four. Botham then has to be fitted in, leaving Lamb, Randall and Gatting to argue over the remaining spot.

Form, of course, not speculation, will be the decisive factor and each of the 15 players knows a good start is crucial because once a place is lost, be it through a bad bounce or unlucky injury, the opportunities to win it back will be very limited.

The tour starts with two one-day games against Fiji on matting wickets, coming 48 hours after a flight half-way round the world. The Fijians may have made little impression on the ICC Trophy tournaments of 1979 and 1982, but in the South Pacific they are a very different proposition. They bowled out a West Indian side, including Sobers, for 63 in 1956.

The New Zealand itinerary, from January 7 to February 25, includes three Test matches, four welcome first-class games, a one-day match and now mandatory three one-day internationals. The relationship between the two teams is exceptionally good, and the New Zealanders, under their popular captain, Howarth, have even managed to strike up a comfortable relationship with the English press.

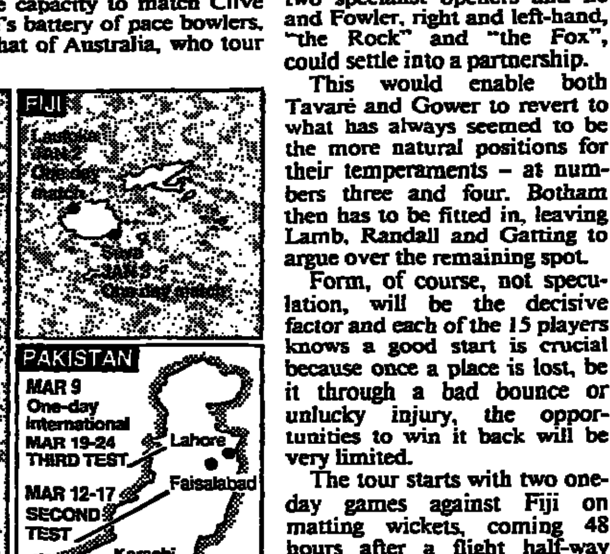
There will be no respite in Pakistan from March 2 to 26, for the programme is fully international: three Test matches and two one-day matches and, however mercurial the Pakistani performances abroad may be, they are powerful and implacable opponents before the tumultuous crowds of Karachi, Lahore and Faisalabad.

Readers will notice that the only wicketkeeper in the party is Taylor, aged 43. As a precaution, Fowler, who came to Old Trafford as a wicketkeeper, has been polishing his skills with gloves while Downton, who is playing and coaching in South Africa, is on stand-by.

TOUR PARTY: R G D Willis (Warwickshire, captain), D I Gower (Leicestershire, vice-captain), G Fowler (Lancashire), M W Gatting (Middlesex), A J Lamb (Northamptonshire), D W Randall (Notts), C L Smith (Hampshire), C J Tavaré (Kent), I T Botham (Somerset), N G Cowans (Middlesex), G R Dilley (Kent), N A Foster (Essex), N G B Cook (Leicestershire), V J Marks (Somerset), R W Taylor (Derbyshire). Manager: A C Smith. Assistant manager: N Gifford. Physiotherapist: B Thomas.

● BBC Radio 3 will be carrying live commentary on the Test matches in Pakistan (7.30am GMT-11.30am), but there will be highlights only from New Zealand – Broadcast at 6.25am on weekdays, and 7.25am at weekends.

● The England players will earn a basic £9,000 per man for the 93-day tour, with a £200 bonus for each previous tour. Bob Willis, as captain, will earn an undisclosed attitional sum.



Records of England tour party in Test matches

	First cap	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct	St	Balls	Runs	Wkts	Avge	Best	5wI	10wM
	Batting and fielding											Bowling						
I T Botham	(1977)	63	100	3	3548	208	36.57	12	14	72	–	14727	6876	277	24.82	8-34	20	4
N G B Cook	(1983)	2	4	0	51	26	12.75	–	–	3	–	812	275	17	16.17	5-35	2	–
N G Cowans	(1982-83)	8	14	2	90	36	7.50	–	–	3	–	1392	843	23	36.65	6-77	1	–
G R Dilley	(1979-80)	17	27	7	328	56	16.40	–	2	5	–	2908	1453	45	32.28	4-24	–	–
N A Foster	(1983)	1	2	0	13	10	6.50	–	–	1	–	168	75	1	75.00	1-35	–	–
G Fowler	(1982)	6	12	0	436	105	36.33	1	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
M W Gatting	(1977-78)	24	42	3	918	81	23.53	–	7	21	–	134	52	0	–	–	–	–
D I Gower	(1978)	53	93	8	3742	200*	44.02	7	19	34	–	12	2	1	2.00	1-1	–	–
A J Lamb	(1982)	15	29	3	1061	137*	40.80	3	5	16	–	6	0	0	–	–	–	–
V J Marks	(1982)	2	4	1	25	12*	8.33	–	–	–	–	300	109	4	27.25	3-78	–	–
D W Randall	(1976-77)	40	68	5	2073	174	32.90	5	11	28	–	16	3	0	–	–	–	–
C L Smith	(1983)	2	4	0	78	43	19.50	–	–	2	–	72	31	2	15.50	2-31	–	–
C J Tavaré	(1980)	26	48	1	1620	149	34.46	2	12	17	–	12	11	0	–	–	–	–
R W Taylor	(1970-71)	51	74	12	1073	97	7.30	–	3	155	7	12	6	0	–	–	–	–
R G D Willis	(1970-71)	83	117	51	775	28*	11.74	–	–	37	–	16042	7471	305	24.49	8-43	16	–

* denotes not out

Yallop makes silk out of tatters

From Ian Brayshaw, Melbourne

A lot of water (and time) approximately 15,000 miles (and two years and a half) has flowed since the Edgbaston Test match of 1981.

At Birmingham during the 1981 Australian tour Kim Hughes felt it necessary to shield his partner, Graham Yallop, from the fast bowling of Bob Willis. At the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday Yallop had the major share of a record-breaking stand, with Hughes that went a long way towards making Australia's position safe after three days of this fourth Test against Pakistan.

Such have been the repairs to the career of Yallop since that humiliating experience at Edgbaston that after his superb innings of 173 not out yesterday, his highest Test score, many pundits were making the large claim that he is now the best batsman in Australia. Certainly the figures support the claim.

Last domestic season, when he was unable to win a place in the Australian team against Willis's England, he rewrote the Sheffield Shield record book with a total of 1,254 runs.

This season he has again been in the runs, opening the Test series with a magnificent 141, adding a century in each innings in a Shield game against Western Australia, a double century in the state game against Pakistan and then producing yesterday's masterpiece.

Yallop drove, cut and glanced his way to his eighth Test century (the first on his home ground) with effortless ease on a pitch that at no stage encouraged comfortable strokeplay, but admittedly against an attack which for the most part lacked penetration.

When his score reached 166 his total of runs in first-class games for the season topped 1,000. He is in some illustrious company. The only other players to achieve the feat before January 1 have been Bill Ponsford (1926-27), Herbert Sutcliffe (1932-33), Bob Simpson (1963-64) and Geoff Boycott (1970-71).

The hallmark of Yallop's innings has been his smooth-as-silk timing of the ball and his unerring accuracy in placing his strokes through the gaps in the field.

His partnership of 203 with Hughes broke the record for the third wicket in Tests against Pakistan and, when it is remembered that the pair came together with the score 70 for two chasing 470, changed the course of this game.

Then, after Hughes went for a patient 94 and Border had punished the attack in a brief stay for 32, the complexion of the game changed again.

It was the moment all Pakistani supporters had waited for as Qadir at last produced an effort of note. He trapped Border leg-before and the score was 342 for four. Then, in the space of 19 more balls and 12 runs, Qadir's fizzing leg spinners had Chappell and Marsh back in the pavillion

Australia still have their backs to the wall, trailing by 91 with not a lot of battling remaining; but it just might be that the Pakistani gamble of going into this vital game undermanned in bowling will cost them the chance of victory.

PAKISTAN: First Innings 470 (Mohsin Khan 152, Imran Khan 83).

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

K C Wessels c Wasim Bari b Azeem	11
W B Phillips l-b-w b Azeem	35
G N Yallop not out	173
*K J Hughes l-b-w b Azeem	94
A R Border l-b-w b Qadir	32
G S Chappell c Salim b Qadir	5
†R W Marsh c Mudassar b Qadir	0
G R J Matthews not out	14
Extras (b 6, l-b 5, w 1, n-b 3)	15
Total (6 wkts)	379

G F Lawson, J N Maguire and D K Lillee to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–21, 2–70, 3–273, 4–342, 5–354, 6–354.

BOWLING (to date): Sarfraz 32-5-79-0; Azeem 28-7-102-3; Qadir 35-6-102-3; Mudassar 13-0-55-0; Miandad 5-0-16-0; Zaheer 9-2-14-0.

Umpires: A R Crafter and P McConnell.



The style is the man: Gavaskar, record Test century-maker

Gavaskar overtakes Bradman

Madras (Reuter) – Sunil Gavaskar completed one of the most memorable days of his illustrious cricket career when he steered India to safety in the sixth Test match against West Indies and overtook Sir Donald Bradman as the leading Test century-maker.

India, who started the shortened fourth day at 69 for four in reply to West Indies' total of 313, reached 262 for six and seem certain to force a draw.

Gavaskar, aged 34, remained unbeaten for almost seven hours to reach 149, his thirtieth Test century. He also shared a record-breaking partnership of 170 with Shastri, the highest for India's sixth wicket against West Indies.

Sharstri, having made 72 in 224 minutes, was out to the last ball of the day when he was trapped leg-before by an off-cutter from Davis. The only other wicket the West Indians captured was that of the nightwatchman, Yadav. Gavaskar, who is making his ninety-ninth appearance for India, said before the match: "I am tired . . . my talent is drying up and I think I am finished with top class cricket."

But Gavaskar added: "India have no Test commitments for at least another nine months so I've enough time to make a decision before another series comes along."

The Indian's innings was in contrast to his performances in the previous Tests in which he adopted a cavalier approach. Yesterday he batted in the manner of old, concentrating hard and exercising patience.

Gavaskar reached his 50 in 159 minutes but increased his run-rate and completed hos record-breaking century in another 112 minutes.

He had an uncomfortable spell stranded on 93 for 21 minutes as he continually missed the strike, but brought up his hundred with a flicked single off Harper, prompting a standing ovation from a crowd estimated at 35,000, and setting off celebrations throughout India.

Gavaskar is also the world's highest run-getter, with 8,373 runs to his credit. He bettered Geoffrey Boycott's record of 8,114 runs during the third Test against West Indies.

Play had started an hour late because parts of the outfield were left sodden by an overnight thunderstorm. India, 3-0 down in the series, resumed in a grim position and lost Yadav when he tried to drive Marshall and was caught by Dujon.

WEST INDIES: First Innings 313 (P J Dujon 62)

INDIA: First Innings

A D Gaekwad c Harper b Marshall	0
N S Siddhu c Richards b Roberts	20
D B Vengsarkar c Harper b Marshall	0
S M Gavaskar not out	149
A O Malhotra c sub B Harper	9
S Yadav c Dujon b Marshall	3
R J Shastri lbw b Davis	72
Extras (b1, LB4, NB4)	9
Total (6wkts)	262

R M H Binny, *Kapil Dev, †S M H Kirmani and Maninder Singh to bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1–0, 2–0, 3–54, 4–67, 5–92, 6–262.

BOWLING (to date): Marshall 17-6-45-3; Roberts 18-4-54-1; Davis 19-3-41-1; Holding 17-2-49-0; Harper 26-4-61-1; Gomes 3-0-7-0.

Umpires: Swarup Kishan and M G Subramanium.

Little master's huge tribute to the power of concentration

Sunil Gavaskar achieved in Madras yesterday perhaps the most coveted of all individual cricketing records. He scored his thirtieth Test century, one more than Sir Donald Bradman and a number which represents a degree of courage, skill and application that can only be marvelled at.

No matter that Bradman's 29 hundreds came in only 80 innings and that Gavaskar's 30 have taken him 174. Bradman was a freak. "Sunny is a great player and an ornament to the game", Bradman said recently, and that must rate as the ultimate tribute.

Test cricket has become a meaner game than when Bradman played it. In Bradman's amazing career, which spanned from 1927 until 1948, the bodyline series was the exception which proves the point. For the rest of those years it would hardly have occurred to batsmen to wear helmets. Today, almost as often as not, it would be folly for all but a very few not to.

In 1930, against England at Headingley, the Don scored 309 runs off his own bat in a single day. Even in 1958-59, when I asked him how many he thought he might make in a dav with the game as it was then being played, against the England attack of Statham, Trueman, Bailey, Laker and Lock, he said "perhaps 175". At Headingley in 1930, England bowled to get him out. In Australia in 1958-59, they would have bowled to slow him down.

The main attribute which Gavaskar has in common with Bradman is the ability to concentrate for hours on end. A wonderfully quick eye and a steely temperament have obviously helped Gavaskar, as they did the great Australian, but as with Jack Nicklaus or Bjorn Borg it is the power to concentrate which has accounted finally for their prodigious success.

If it is true that the great majority of Gavaskar's hundreds have been made in perfect batting conditions, and that in India umpires have given him out only at their peril, no batsman can ever have had to contend with so much short-pitched bowling, aimed at intimidating him. In a sense, I suppose, his size (he is only 5ft 4in tall) has been a help in enabling him to take evasive action; yet the way in which he has scotched the ball lifting into his ribs has, over the years, been masterly – and quite fearless.

He has made centuries, home and away, against all the Test-playing countries except Sri Lanka, the reason for this lone omission being that he has yet to play in a Test match in Sri Lanka. Outside India he has scored them at the Oval and Old Trafford, Brisbane and Bridgetown, Melbourne, Perth and Port of Spain, Georgetown and Karachi, Auckland and Faisalabad. Yesterday's was his thirteenth against West Indies, in itself an astonishing record.

As a captain he too often allowed the fear of losing to determine his thinking. Not that that was altogether surprising when, as in India, cricket is less a recreation than a creed. All too easily, one day's idol in Bombay or Bangalore is next day's knave. Gavaskar must also be disappointed that he has never scored a century for India at Lord's. He yet may, though by the time India come to England next, in 1986, he will be rising 37.

At the Oval in 1979 he scored 221 after India had been left to make 438 to win. Although not at Lord's that was an innings which showed him at his very best. It had everything: discipline, determination and daring. Bradman's 232 made there in 1930 or his 244 in 1934 can have been no more systematically compiled.

John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

FOOTBALL

Bamber gives Coventry concern

Dave Bamber, the Coventry City forward underwent an operation yesterday in the hope of discovering the cause of a mystery blood illness. He had surgery on a swelling of his shin, which is an early symptom of an attack.

Bamber's fellow forward, Terry Gibson, Coventry's leading scorer with 12 goals, also missed last night's league match at Nottingham Forest with an ankle injury. He will be out for two weeks.

Forest may also face a Liverpool side on Saturday, lacking both Dalglish and Johnston. Dalglish is doubtful because he has a recurrence of a stomach strain, and Johnston damaged a shoulder against West Bromwich Albion on Monday and aggravated the injury against Leicester the following day. Hodgson and Whelan are standing by.

Everton's problems are even worse having scored only 11 goals in the league this season ad without a goal in any of their last three games, they have an injury crisis. The latest victims are Johnson and Heath with ankle injuries and Harper with a thigh problem.

Andy Blair has returned to Aston Villa after a two-month spell on loan with Wolves, who could not agree on a valuation for the midfield player, rated at £70,000.

Villa may solve their right back problem by including Ray Walker, the former England youth international, for Saturday's home match against Queen's Park Rangers. The 20-year-old played impressively at full-back as substitute against Tottenham on Tuesday.

Villa seem set to recall Gary Shaw, who scored twice yesterday in a friendly against a local non-league side, but Colin Gibson's return will be delayed by a recurrence of hamstring trouble in the same match.

Lee Chapman has joined Sunderlan for £100,000 after passing a medical. Chapman was unable to command a regular place in the Arsenal side, scoring once in three league appearances. Alan Durban, the Sunderland manager, also signed Chapman, aged 24, when he was in charge at Stoke.

YACHTING

Little joy for Britain

From John Roberson
Hobart

With the wind having [redacted] between 10 and 15 knots, [redacted] towards the east, [redacted] competing in the [redacted] race were having [redacted] able passage [redacted] yesterday, than [redacted] they had experienced [redacted] hours of the race.

However, the [redacted] ditions is of [redacted] British team [redacted] thern Cross Cup, [redacted] had steadily [redacted] At the compulsory [redacted] yesterday afternoon [redacted] 13th, 14th, and [redacted] dropped to fifth [redacted]

Meanwhile, [redacted] team continued [redacted] lead in an [redacted] star yacht [redacted] though one of [redacted] fleet, has been [redacted] the field all the way [redacted]

The other two [redacted] yachts, Geronimo [redacted] no sluggards, and are [redacted] and fourth on handicap, [redacted] team a 98 point lead over [redacted] second place.

Team scores: 1, New Zealand, [redacted] S W, 439; 3, Papua New [redacted] 4, Hongkong, 379; 5, Britain, 375.

TENNIS

Sixth seed goes out

Sarah Longbottom, the sixth seed, was yesterday defeated 6-7, 7-6, 6-3 by Clare Wood, of Sussex, in a match which stretched to three hours and 10 minutes, on the second day of the Sunsilk Christmas tournament at Queen's Club (Louis Meir writes).

Miss Wood had to do something to make amends for a first set in which she let slip a 5-2 lead and then lost 5-7 in the tie-break.

First Round: C Wood bt S Longbottom, 6-7, 7-6, 6-3. J Langstaff bt L Harley, 6-0, 6-2. J Reeves bt E May, 6-0, 6-0. J Caplen bt T Brazenall, 6-1, 7-5. J Wood bt A Grunfeld, 6-3, 7-6. S McCarthy bt J Phillips, 6-2, 7-5. J Rich bt C Gilles, 6-4, 7-6. K Montagu bt R Brookes, 6-0, 6-2. Second Round: D Walker, bt S Imhof, 6-1, 6-3. K Brasher bt L Ristic, 6-1, 6-0.

● Balazs Taroczy of Hungary, and Heinz Gunthardt, of Switzerland, will play the opening match in the world doubles championship, sponsored by Barratt, against Kevin Curren, of South Africa, and Steve Denton of United States, at the Albert Hall next Tuesday. Taroczy and Gunthardt have won the event for the last two years.

RUGBY UNION

The winning ways of Leicester's flirts

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

Leicester 30
Barbarians 26

In accord with the exilhirating tradition of this Christmas holiday fixture, the best "try" of the match at Welford Road yesterday was not allowed. Underwood, the Leicester left wing, was the unfortunate player at the end of a move which began behind the Leicester posts. Woodward, the England centre, broke clean to halfway but his pass to Underwood was judged forward.

There was consolation aplenty for the home side, whose win by a goal, three tries, three penalty goals and a dropped goal to two goals, two tries and two penalties was their third in succession. They flirted constantly with danger, never more than in their third try when two long passes floated tantalizingly in front of Barbarian noses, the second pass giving Underwood an open field and 60 meters to run. He beat Viviès and Green to the line as Leicester extended their lead to 24-13.

Any queries remaining in the minds of the England selectors regarding the retention of Woodward may have been resolved here. He found Green a hard man to pull down, but then so did all his colleagues, and, as far as a straight comparison with Cardus was concerned, Woodward ended ahead on points. His colleagues on the wings, Underwood and Evans, also enjoyed themselves, attacking with vigour and speed and defending stoutly.

Leicester were outweighed at the scrummage but Tressler, to his credit, took all his own ball and gathered an additional heel from Dupont. The French hooker was also in sôme trouble with his lineout throwing, to the distress of Colclough, his French-speaking colleague, and Leicester gathered a fruitful harvest from all their jumpers.

The Barbarians, after a record defeat last season, were sufficiently keen to win for Davies, captain for the day, to accept various penalty opportunities; but he, Green and Holdstock contributed much to the day's festivities. Indeed they may have felt during a fluctuating first half – in which the lead changed hands six times – that it was to be their day since Hare missed two conversions and a penalty, all within his usual scope, before gratefully hoisting a 22-metre penalty between the posts.

Both sides had scored tries within the first five minutes: Viviès was caught under his posts and Richards freed the ball for Youngs to bounce over. Then Davies, following a drive to the Leicester line by his forwards, dummied the defence to put Green in, then added the conversion.

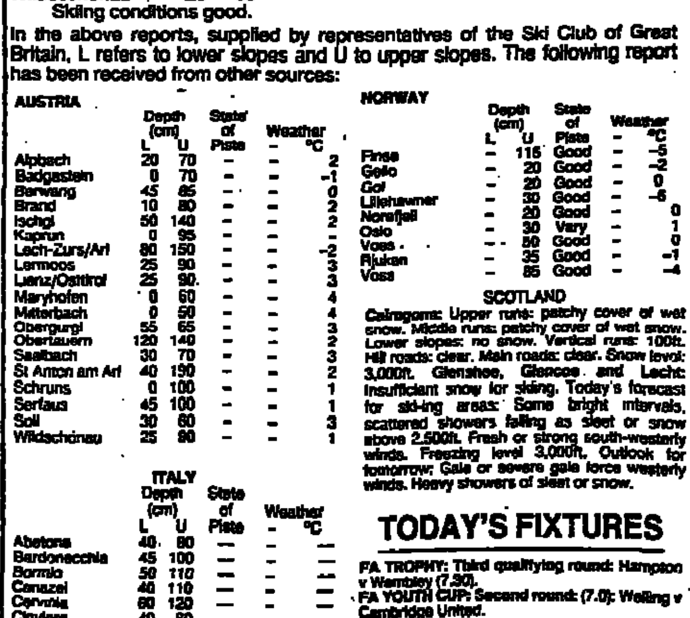
Richards and Gargan had a lively tussle at No 8, Richards's strength giving him the overall edge although Gargan, slightly the taller, had the satisfaction of scoring a try, straight from a lineout throw. The tidying up in midfield of Richards was especially useful to his side against the thrusts of Davies and Cardus.

Leicester regained the lead from a wayward pass by Green intended for Holdstock but which fell to Underwood, who scored. Davies kicked a penalty and Gargan scored his try, but Hare kicked two penalties to give his side a slim 14-13 advantage at half-time. Immediately after the interval Leicester went away. Youngs kicked an intelligent ball to the corner, the lineout was won and Cusworth dispatched Evans for his eighteenth try of the season.

Underwood's second try, improved by Hare, seemed to give Leicester a big enough cushion particularly as their young flankers, Marriott and Tebbutt, were breaking up the Barbarian attacks well.

The last few minutes were nip and tuck. Hare kicked a penalty and Davies, from touch, converted Holdstock's try to make the difference one point before Cusworth, with the last kick of the match, dropped a 30-metre goal and Leicester were home to the delight of the capacity 17,000 crowd.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Youngs, Underwood (2), Evans. Conversion: Hare. Penalties: Hare (3). Drop goal: Cusworth. Barbarians: Tries: Green, Gargan, Donald, Holdstock. Conversions: Davies (2). Penalties: Davies (2).



Special K: Underwood evades Bailey

LEICESTER: B Evans, I Bates, C Woodward, R [illegible]wood; L Cusworth (captain), N Youngs; W Whitcombe, C Tressler, S Redfern, A Marriott, N Gillingham, M Foulkes-Arnold, R Tebbutt, D Richards.

BARBARIANS: B Viviès (Agen and France); S Holdstock (Nottingham), C Green (Canterbury and New Zealand), R Cardus (Wasps and England), M Bailey (Cambridge University); G Davies (Cardiff and Wales, captain), A Donald (Wanganui and New Zealand); I Stephens (Bridgend and Wales), J-L Dupont (Agen and France), P Blakeway (Gloucester and England), K Bowring (London Welsh), M Colclough (Wasps and England), S Bainbridge (Gosforth and England), P Winterbottom (Headingley and England), M Gargan (Oxford University).

Referee: D Burnett (Ireland).

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm) –	°C
Avoriaz	50	55	Fair	Heavy	Fair	Fine	6
Some runs worn.							
Davos	35	100	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	1
Good skiing.							
Flaine	45	105	Fair	Varied	Poor	Fine	5
Very limited skiing.							
Kitzbühel	5	75	Fair	Crust	Poor	Fine	6
Icy patches on lower slopes.							
Verbier	15	70	Fair	Heavy	Poor	Fine	5
Lower slopes slightly slushy.							
Wengen	10	40	Fair	Varied	Fair	Fine	5
Recent snow revives pistes.							
Wildeschönau	20	95					5
Skiing conditions good.							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following report has been received from other sources:

AUSTRIA

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather –	°C
Alpbach	20	70	–	–	2
Badgastein	0	70	–	–	-1
Berwang	45	65	–	–	0
Brand	10	80	–	–	2
Ischgl	50	140	–	–	2
Kaprun	0	95	–	–	–
Lech-Zurs/Arl	80	150	–	–	-2
Lermoos	25	90	–	–	3
Lienz/Osttirol	25	90	–	–	3
Mayrhofen	0	60	–	–	4
Mitterbach	0	50	–	–	4
Obergurgl	55	65	–	–	3
Obertauern	120	140	–	–	2
Saalbach	30	70	–	–	3
St Anton am Arl	40	190	–	–	2
Schruns	0	100	–	–	1
Serfaus	45	100	–	–	1
Soll	30	60	–	–	3
Wildschönau	25	80	–	–	1

ITALY

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather –	°C
Abetone	40	80	—	–	—
Bardonecchia	45	100	—	–	—
Bormio	50	110	—	–	—
Canazei	40	110	—	–	—
Cervinia	80	120	—	–	—
Claviere	40	80	—	–	—
Cortina	80	110	—	–	—
Courmayeur	60	120	—	–	—
Livigno	70	100	—	–	—
Macugnaga	30	130	—	–	—
Madesimo	80	120	—	–	—
Madonna di C	150	180	—	–	—
Ortisei	40	40	—	–	—
San Martino	30	100	—	–	—
Selva	40	75	—	–	—
Sestriere	70	80	—	–	—
Vipiteno	10	70	—	–	—

NORWAY

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather –	°C
Finse	–	115	Good	–	-5
Geilo	–	20	Good	–	-2
Gol	–	20	Good	–	0
Lillehammer	–	30	Good	–	-6
Norefjell	–	20	Good	–	0
Oslo	–	30	Vary	–	1
Voss	–	50	Good	–	0
Rjukan	–	35	Good	–	-1
Voss	–	85	Good	–	-4

SCOTLAND

Cairngorms: Upper runs: patchy cover of wet snow. Middle runs: patchy cover of wet snow. Lower slopes: no snow. Vertical runs: 100ft. Hill roads: clear. Main roads: clear. Snow level: 3,000ft. Glenshee, Glencoe and Lecht: Insufficient snow for skiing. Today's forecast for ski-ing areas: Some bright intervals, scattered showers falling as sleet or snow above 2,500ft. Fresh or strong south-westerly winds. Freezing level 3,000ft. Outlook for tomorrow: Gale or severe gale force westerly winds. Heavy showers of sleet or snow.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FA TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Hampton v Wembley (7.30).
FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: (7.0): Welling v Cambridge United.

BASKETBALL

World Invitation Club Championships (Crystal Palace NSC, 10.0).

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S TERRITORIAL TOURNAMENTS: (10.0): East (at Eurosports Village, Shotley, Nr Ipswich); Midlands (at Bedford CHE); North (at Queen Mary School, Lytham St Annes); West (at Ladies' College Playing Fields, Cheltenham, 10.30).

FOR THE RECORD

SPEED SKATING

ALMA-ATA, Soviet Union: Men's 10,000 metres: Malkov 13 min 54.81 sec (national record).
● The performance of A Bobrov in the men's 1500 metres at Tuesday's meeting was not a world record but a national record.

BASKETBALL

National Associations: Indiana Pacers 115, Milwaukee Bucks 104; Atlanta Hawks 112, Dallas Mavericks 109; Detroit Pistons 140, Portland Trail Blazers 100; Washington Bullets 116, New Jersey Nets 106; Boston Celtics 115, San Antonio Spurs 100; San Diego Clippers 110, Houston Rockets 95; Chicago Bulls 102, New York Knicks 95; Philadelphia 76ers 112, Kansas City Kings 109; Los Angeles Lakers 118, Denver Nuggets 116; Utah Jazz 111, Golden State Warriors 102.

CRESTA RUN

CALISCH GRISCHUN Switzerland: 1, U Nater (Switz), 132.61 sec; 2, R Ganaser (Switz), 132.83; 3, F Gansser (Switz), 133.19; 4, M Albers-Schoenberg, 133.41; 5, J Sunley (GB), 135.80; 6, C Tesdorpf (WG), 135.88.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Louis Blues 5, New Jersey Devils 4; Quebec Nordiques 7, Hartford Whalers 3; Buffalo Sabres 7, Montreal Canadiens 4.
EDMONTON: Exhibition series: Canada 3, Soviet Union 4.
DAVOS: Spengler Cup: ERC Schwenningen (WG) 3, Dynamo Moscow 7.

TENNIS

FORT WASHINGTON: International Junior Tournament: Boys' 14 years singles: D Sapsford (GB) bt D Lomicky (US), 2-6, 6-4, 6-2. Girls' 14 years singles: T Catlin (GB) bt P Moreno (HK), 7-5, 6-4; A Simpson (GB) bt R Siegel (US), 6-1, 6-1. Girls' 12 years singles: J Donovan (GB) bt J Iglesis (US), 6-0, 6-0.

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Leicester 30, Barbarians 26.
CLUB MATCH: Newport 53, Maesteg 14.

هكذا من الأصل

David Miller looks back on year of surprises over land and sea

When beauty triumphed over the beast





Kapil Dev with the cup of surprises after beating West Indies at Lord's, and (below) Alan Bond with the cup overflowing after Australia II's victory in the America's Cup.

My father would strongly have urged Mrs Worthington not to put her son on the sporting stage: advice which, *coming from a repertory actor*, was a bit of a sauce, though it was only by coincidence that I chanced to ignore it and landed, fortuitously and gratefully, upon my pen nib.

The past year has, as usual, offered continually engaging experiences for being paid to do that which for the rest of you mostly requires a holiday, the wife's permission or even, in these times, a bank loan: indeed all three, if you have imminent designs upon Los Angeles for the Olympic Games.

It was often a *good year in 1983*, even if the South African controversy wove its Machiavellian path across political and social tenets; even if Denis Howell trundled up to the wicket in almost the last over and attempted to bowl the biggest hitters in sport – Mark McCormack's International Management Group and the autocratic IOC and FIFA, among others – with successive googlies. Howell's inquiry into sponsorship suggests that international sport is about as financially and morally open to question as many multi-national corporations.

It confirmed what I ventured to suggest last January, that when professionalism overtook ideology in most main sports during the past 30 years, the baby tended to go out with the bath water. Traditional virtues, the fundamental ethos of sport, disappeared. Some of the truest sportsmen I met in the year were far from the madding crowd at the mountain activities centre at Plas y Brenin.

Yet, leaving aside whether sports persons are being activated by adventure or money, curiosity or drugs, there were many special events *falling into* those two categories which rivet public attention: the near certainty born of unsurpassed excellence, or an extravagance of uncertainty.

The former included the beauty of Torvill and Dean, who have almost entered the language like Tate & Lyle; the menace of Marvin Hagler; the electric sprinting and jumping of Lewis and the marathons of Waitz and de Castella in Helsinki; the Boat Race by Oxford's OAPs; the masculine triumphs of Ms Mavratilova in tennis and Ms Kratochvilova on the track; the four times world judo champion Yamashita; the best football of Juventus and Platini.

Among the latter were the double middle distance triumph over Eastern Europeans by injury-prone Mary Decker (for whom I voted unavailingly in *L'Equipe's* sporting champion of the year), plus Cram's defeat of Ovett and Scott and Thompson's defeat of Hingsen; India's improbable World Cup victory over West Indies and New Zealand's first Test match win in England; Lendl's Wimbledon and Flushing Meadow encounters with McEnroe and Connors; Higgins's victory over Davis from seven frames down; Wales's game attempt to upstage England in the European championships; and, unforgettably, the odyssey of Ben Lexcen's Australia II in the gamesmanship-infested waters of Rhode Island.

Team trophy

And neither category includes the almost anonymously achieved, near supersonic recapture of the land speed record by Richard Noble, travelling as fast as a slowish bullet across an improbable sea of dried mud in Nevada. Even though dependent on 220 sponsors and contributors, Noble was, in a sense, the outstanding amateur of the year, motivated throughout countless ardours by history and non-financial aspiration.

Such is the ice dance perfection of Torvill and Dean that they almost qualify as an individual. Their performance to the music from Barnum in retaining their world title with a row of "tens" lifted them out of sport and into that artistic realm which is their ultimate ambition if and when they have won the Olympics next February.

They have been awarded the Sports Writers' Association British team trophy for the third successive year – ahead of Aberdeen's triumph over Real Madrid – and their adherence to excellence and self-discipline included the refusal *to compromise* even with non-competitive diversions which might have added valuable Dairy Council sponsorship to the support of Nottinghamshire Council. Their interpretation of Ravel's Bolero is yet another masterpiece which defies the physical limitations of their medium.

If Hagler's predictable distraction of Tony Sibson was as ferocious as the snowstorm which swept across New England, his defence against Roberto Duran was rather less impressive. We await with concern a possible matching in Sugar Ray Leonard's comback: which would threaten not only Leonard's infallibility but his surgically-repaired eye.

Frank Bruno, having nearly walked into oblivion early in his last fight, may yet get in line for a rare British tilt at the heavyweight title in a thin field headed by the tiring Holmes, but Bruno's credentials are surely less than *Lloyd's Al*.

Moaners prize of the year is shared between Navratilova, a millionairess, and Messrs Mariner and Wark of Ipswich, alienating the paying public with their laughable protests of underpayment. Perhaps they should be locked up to contemplate their verbal vandalism, along with our hooligans in Luxembourg, who belatedly received the treatment they deserved some 15 years too late for Britain's reputation. Sadly, the second, *tepid Chester Report said* too little, but since predictably no one in football took much notice anyway, the Gadarene decline of club finances continues.

Brighton should have won with almost the last kick of the Cup Final, but Manchester United ran away with the replay 25 years after the Munich crash, just at the time Fifa were pretending to hear the 1986 World Cup host applications of the United States and Canada, having already decided the finals should return to the high financial altitude of Mexico. Henry Kissinger bit João Havelange's dust and charged the US Federation £20,000 expenses.

Lost appeal

England played 20 matches at Under 16, Youth Under 21 and senior levels, losing only once, critically, at home to Denmark: Which left Britain's hopes for the European championship on the lonely Welsh shoulders of the opportunist Rush, who could not quite deliver.

The Lions' tour of New Zealand was a disaster; Peter Wheeler's strange exclusion was italicised when he led England to victory over an admittedly less than spectacular All Blacks team in the autumn. The Aladdin's lamp of professional rugby union hovered in the wings, while amateur officials pretended that it would make no difference if they lost 200 top players.

The New Zealanders lobbied for a World Cup, which would do for alleged amateurism what Stenmark has done for skiing; and J P R Williams expensively lost the High Court appeal on amateurism to the *Daily Telegraph*, which further ridicules the attitude over the illegality of biographies.

The championships were a mixture of exhilaration and caution, many runners manoeuvring for medals which would subsequently bring the big commercial and appearance money. Nobody could question Cram's 1500 metres victory, yet the first lap was at the pace of the women's race. Unfortunately, I missed my fortune by forecasting the first four in order – Cram, Scott, Aouita, Ovett – without placing a bet at 400-1. Lewis shows he is all set in Los Angeles to live alongside the legend of Owens, while Thompson, Moses, Waitz, de Castella and Coghlan gave marvellously-controlled performances from which a sick Coe's name was sadly missing.

Headlong

If there was no evidence of drugs in Helsinki, the Americans, Cubans and others ran headlong into trouble in the Pan-American games, and the lecture by international shot putter Mike Winch at the recent Central Council for Physical Recreation conference should make the authorities, not short of money, doubly intent on random testing.

Yorkshire County Cricket Club *sacked Boycott, but he would not go* away. Nobody else wanted him, other than a stubborn and large section of his club who are determined on reinstatement: it should be the most intriguing run-out decision of Boycott's exceptional career.

You cannot help feeling that the England selectors are wrong about trying to persuade Botham not to play a mediocre game as full back for Scunthorpe, thereby increasing his sense of being indispenable and their appearance of vulnerability. Tell him to choose one or the other. Nobody should have to be persuaded to play for England.

It is a pity that the incident between a railway clerk and Croft the West Indian cricketer, should have been avidly over-simplified as the definitive condemnation of South Africa.

Of course, poltical movement in the opposite direction is equally active. The United Nations anti-apartheid lobby intends to make things increasingly difficult for motor racing, golf, horse racing, tennis, snooker etcetera, but that was far from the mind when Lendl, who has been offered substantial white South African money, missed the high backhand volley which would have given him 4-2 in the first set tie break against McEnroe in the Wimbledon semi-final. Had Lendl not pulled that shot into the tape, might he have won?

He certainly should have at Flushing Meadow, but leaving aside Connors's controversial five-minute departure to the dressing room, I think Lendl revealed in the intense heat a reluctance to scramble which has always been at the heart of Connors's remarkable, if occasionally ugly, capacity for winning.

Jo Durie steadily improved; let us hope she has more to come. Even if Chris Lewis and Nduka Odizor of Nigeria (defeating Vilas) do not we shall remember from Wimbledon.

Winning is not everything. Higgins is the most engaging snooker player because he is as likely to lose spectacularly as to win, and I wonder whether Faldo, winner of five European titles, would have increased his prestige had he generously conceded a half when he eventually discovered his ball had been thrown back from the crowd in the World Match Play?

The greatest drama of winning and losing was the America's Cup and with some journalistic reluctance – we like to deny such facts – it has to be admitted that the New York Yacht Club's dirty tricks department intensified the excitement. We now know they secretly voted to pull out of the final series, but lost their nerve. The Americans lost more than a yacht race, they surrendered a slice of their sporting reputation.



Carl Lewis, a legend in its making, long-jumping to victory at Helsinki, while (below) Mary Decker, often plagued by injury, takes the bend in style at the same meeting.



RACING

Cut A Dash sparks a double for the queen of Fontwell

By John Karter

Dina Smith, the queen of Fontwell Park, returned there in radiant triumph yesterday, having temporarily abdicated to produce her most-prized winner yet, – a baby girl, who weighed in at 6lb 4oz on November 25.

In the six years she has been training literally just down the road from the Sussex course, more than half Mrs Smith's winners have come at Fontwell – she rode the first herself – and she is second only to Josh Gifford in the trainers' table there. Yesterday she bought her career total to 50 when Cut a *Dash took the Salmon Spray* Hurdle and added icing to the cake when The Somac ran away with the Whitelaw Challenge Cup.

Cut a Dash looked a leading juvenile last season, but disappointed badly in the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham. Mrs Smith believes that this was because he had been badly buffeted in his previous race at Kempton Park, after which he returned with all his legs swollen.

The horse has been ready to race for some time this season, but his trainer has been waiting for the right ground. Her patience was well rewarded when Cut a Dash – of whom Willie Carson apparently once said "he can not gallop" when the four-year-old was trained by Dick Hern – strode away from *Nick Gaselee's promising Irish* import, Berlin.

The Oteley Hurdle at Sandown Park will tell Mrs Smith whether Cut a Dash is up to Champion Hurdle class, although at the moment she sees him more as a stayer. Incidently, Mrs Smith may be on the move soon but, contrary to reports elsewhere, she will not be going to Ogbourne Maisey.

To hear John Francome whistling and wisecracking in his usual chirpy way after the last race you might have thought that he, too, had taken Fontwell by storm. In fact, the afternoon was, by his standards, a disaster.

After the first race he was hauled in by the stewards to explain why he pulled up Hulda (a broken blood vessel provided the answer); in the third he took a crashing fall from the heavily-*backed Seymour Lady and he* was then beaten on Fred Winter "hot-pots" in both divisions of the novice hurdle. Both the novice winners, Southernair and Floyd, are quoted at 33-1 *for the Triumph Hurdle*.

It had appeared that we were witnessing a disaster of a much more tragic sort when Seymour Lady, having completed the course riderless, crashed through the rails before the final fence and ran into the dense holiday crowd. Ambulances rushed to the scene, but miraculously there was not a scratch on horse or human.

We may see another chapter written in the quite amazing story of Bob Champion at Plumpton this afternoon when Army Council can provide him with his first winner in the Queen Mother's colours in the first *division* of the Heathfield Novices' Hurdle.

After a promising fourth to Gratification at Newbury, Army Council was level with the leaders at the last flight in the race won by *Floating Lover* at Cheltenham but faded into seventh place. Today's half-mile shorter trip will suit him and he should have the better of On The Warpath, a Carlisle winner.

Another worthwhile bet at this meeting could be Vodkatini, from the in-form stable of Peter Haynes. Vodkatini missed Cut a Dash's race yesterday to wait for the Ladbroke Hurdle in which he looks well weighted. The best bet at Stratford may be Highland Clipper, who looked likely to win his first race over hurdles at Lingfield until he fell at the last. The receipt of 7lb from Hayakaze should settle the issue.

Improving Four Plus lives up to his name

From Our Irish Correspondent

Four plus, successful in his four previous *starts* over hurdles, lived up to his name at Leopardstown yesterday when he extended his *winning sequence to* five with a clearcut victory in the Black and White Whisky Handicap Hurdle. It was the first time Four Plus had taken on handicappers but he did everything right and before turning into the straight had moved up into *a challenging position behind Gav's* Delight and Gallant Royal.

Michael Byrne was still sitting against the horse as they came to the final flight but once he touched down he switched into top gear and came clear to beat Well Born by eight lengths. Gallant Royal was another four lengths away third. This race was an important trial for the Irish Sweeps Hurdle over course and distance on January 14 and while Four Plus can expect to get a large handicapper's penalty, *Michael McGrath*, his co Waterford trainer, still plans to run him.

Gerry Doyle, who ran well for a long way yesterday, reappears today over a more suitable journey when carrying top weight in the three-mile Joe Donnelly Handicap Hurdle. However, *he* may fail to give weight to Power Struggle who has never won over less than three miles.

The star attraction, though, will be the reappearance in the Joe Donnelly flat race of Snow Fox, rated by many good judges as the outstanding National Hunt prospect in Ireland.



Plain Sailing: Cut A Dash (Mark Harrington) jumps the last clear of Berlin (Richard Rowe) in the Salmon Spray Hurdle (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Stratford-upon-Avon

Going: Good to soft

1.0 AULD LANG SYNE HURDLE (Div I: novices: £690: 2m) (10 runners)

2 006-12 GYPSEY LEA (D) (Mrs S Wakely) P Wakely 5-11-0 –
4 0- DUSKY KNIGHT (J Tilley) D Nicholson 5-10-12 P Scudamore
13 p0p- TRUCKER (B Llewellyn) D Burchell 7-10-12 M Williams
14 f12202 BROCKLEY BELLE (CD) (C Spares) C Spares 4-10-11 –
17 04 FALCON'S HEIR (S Mailes) J Bradley 4-10-9 G Davies
18 304 GILLIE'S PRINCE (Mrs E Mear) S Mear 4-10-9 Mrs S Sherwood
19 f HIGHLAND CLIPPER (Miss A Whitfield) A Turnell 4-10-9 F Byrne 7
23 0-0 MASSIMO (K Malle) C Jackson 4-10-9 J Bryan
25 0 SMILING LAUREL (P Terry) Mrs B Waring 4-10-9 J Williams
30 0 LADY LETITIA (Mrs J Egar) Miss A King 4-10-4 J Burke

11-10 Highland Clipper, 7-2 Gypsey Lea, 4 Dusky Knight, 7 Brockley Belle, 10 Falcon's Heir, 12 others.

1.30 BRAN TUB HURDLE (Selling handicap: conditional jockeys: £596: 2m) (11)

1 p-p HARPURSTOWN (Mrs S Oliver) Mrs S Oliver 6-12-7 –
2 403p02 THE KNIFE (D) (Miss S Lavery) M James 5-11-10 J Duggan 5
4 32004/3 RIVA BE GOOD (D) (M Fry) O O'Neill 6-11-6 M Castell
5 30000-0 SOVEREIGN STEED (Mrs D Alcock) D Wintle 5-11-4 –
7 020-000 GOLD FLOOR (D) (Mrs R Bradley) J Bradley 6-11-2 –
9 00-0000 LADYSWOOD (D) (B) (Dr B Coulton) K Bridgwater 6-10-13 –
11 300-p00 INDADO (D) (B) (R Williams) R Williams 5-10-7 C Evans
12 3-00000 TENNIS TRACK (R Hickman) R Hickman 5-10-7 D Chinn 5
13 0/00-pf HANDY GRAY (G Cantrill) B Cambidge 5-10-7 –
15 00-0200 HOLDALL (J Parish) P Butler 5-10-7 –
18 00-0040 MOSQUITO RIVER (M Hughes) B Richmond 6-10-7 –

Evens The Knife, 100-30 Riva Be Good, 5 Tennis Track, 8 Holdall, 12 Mosquito River, 14 Indado, 16 others.

2.0 J. H. ROWE CHASE (Handicap: £2,267: 3m 2f) (8)

2 3f/0pf- LEWIS HOMES (CD) (Lewis Bros) Mrs M Rimell 9-11-6 S Morshead
5 u1f11-0 BARRIER REEF (Mrs T Tate) T Tate 8-11-4 Mr T Tate
6 3p-0300 LENEY DUAL (B Brooks) D Nicholson 8-11-2 P Scudamore
8 /212r1- GALWAY BLAZE (Mrs R Formby) J FitzGerald 7-11-1 R O'Leary
9 1/11-pf UPHAM PLEASURE (C) (R Brinkworth) D Gandolfo 8-10-12 P Barton
10 222013 LAURENSUN (C) (Mrs C Black) M Oliver 8-10-9 (5 ex) DOUBTFUL
16 024331 PUCKA FELLA (Mrs D Tucker) Mrs D Tucker 9-10-1 (5 ex) –
18 20314-0 WOODLANDS LAD (CD) (P Pritchard) P Pritchard 8-10-0 P Dever 7

3 Lewis Homes, 7-2 Barrier Reef, 4 Galway Blaze, 8 Pucka Fella, Upham Pleasure, 10 Leney Dual, 12 Woodlands Lad.

2.30 VIVIAN STREET CHASE (Handicap: amateur riders: £1,525: 2m) (12)

2 0/0-402 CHINRULLAH (Mrs R Eastwood) D Nicholson 11-12-3 C O'Toole 4
3 103-p21 ROYAL MERE (D) (Sir J Hanmer) Mrs M Rimell 8-11-6 (7 ex) A Sharpe
4 402-0u3 OYSTER POND (D) (K Clarke) M McCourt 8-10-10 –
5 100-403 CAPTAIN SHADOW (CD) (D Ancil) D Ancil 8-10-9 –
6 324f12- MOONSHOT (C MacSwiney) T Forster 9-10-8 T Thomson Jones
8 p20123 GREEN DOLPHIN (Mrs C Black) Mrs C Black 9-10-7 Miss S Head 7
10 1011fp GOLDENOGAN (J Hyde) R Armytage 8-10-7 M Armytage 7
12 p00f-pf SYDNEY QUIN (J Taylor) C Trietline 11-10-7 –
13 0u4p10- TIGHT SCHEDULE (B Key) B Key 13-10-7 Miss D Key 7
14 p-00p32 ALL BRIGHT (B) (G Roe) G Roe) 11-10-7 P Hobbs 4
15 u24028 MAJOR GAMBLE (CD) (B) (Miss P Quant) A Barrow 9-10-7 Miss P Quant 7
16 0p/00fp RED KNIGHT (Mrs J Conway) E Alston 7-10-7 Mrs J Conway 7

7-4 Royal Mere, 3 Chinrullah, 4 Moonshot, 7 Green Dolphin, 8 Captain Shadow, 12 Goldenogan, 14 others.

3.0 DARK STRANGERS CHASE (Novices' handicap: £1,333: 2m) (9)

2 0234- UNSUNG (W Dempsey) R Holder 9-11-7 P Richards
3 004p00- SAM BENNION (M Wilesmith) M Sleemith 8-11-6 –
4 320212 CROWNING MOMENT (D) (B) (H Spearing) I Wardle 8-11-5 (6 ex) K Mooney
5 14f-0p4 BEEN MUGGED (B) (M Tucker) D Gandolfo 7-11-1 P Barton
8 p-14f00 MIGHTY IMPRESSIVE (Mrs P Cosgrave) Mrs P Cosgrave 7-10-10 P Carvill
11 0-40e41 ENERGISE (Mrs J Newman) B Shaw 5-10-9 Mr A J Wilson
12 u3003-0 GOLD RACER (Miss J Cunningham) I Dudgeon 6-10-8 M Richards 4
13 4404f2 ELMBROOK (Mrs P Joynes) J Spearing 7-10-6 R Dickin
15 /0-1004 THE PROPHET (T Pocock) R Pocock 6-10-0 M Nuttall 7

5-2 Crowning Moment, 7-2 Been Mugged, 5 Energise, 6 Elmbrook, 8 Unsung, 10 The Prophet, 12 Mighty Impressive, 14 others.

3.30 AULD LANG SYNE HURDLE (Div II: novices: £690: 2m) (13)

1 ppp-1 BURNDITCH BOY (R Hughes) M Eckley 4-11-2 G Evans 7
10 pp INDIAN DEBT (T Pocock) R Pocock 5-10-12 P Richards
12 4040-32 NORFOLK REALM (D Goldstein) P Makin 5-10-12 –
13 ou WORTH AVENUE (Communidata Ltd) M Chapman 7-10-12 –
14 0 AUTUMN ZULU (P Boddy) M McCourt 4-10-9 G McCourt
16 DANISH EXPRESS (E Hayward) J Bradley 4-10-9 G Davies
23 00f SPECTRAL (D Roderick) D Roderick 4-10-9 J Williams
24 TANCRED WALK (J Simpson) C Jackson 4-10-9 J Bryan
25 0 THE COLBALT UNIT (Mrs J Allan Cancer Appeal) Miss A King 4-10-9 DOUBTFUL
30 00 GENTLE STAR (Mrs K Ivory) K Ivory 4-10-4 P Barton
31 pu004-f LINPAC GOLD (H McEwen) B Bridge 4-10-4 W Morris 4
32 MISS OATES (C Sweetings) C Sweeting 4-10-4 M Richards 4
34 p00-0 SPACE SPEAKER (Mrs M Bridgwater) K Bridgwater 4-10-4 –

4-5 Norfolk Realm, 4 Burnditch Boy, 6 Tancred Walk, 8 Gentle Star, 12 Linpac Gold, 14 others.

Stratford selections

By John Karter

1.0 Highland Clipper. 1.30 Riva be Good. 2.0 Barrier Reef. 2.30 Royal Mere. 3.0 Crowning Moment. 3.30 Norfolk Realm.

Plumpton selections

By John Karter

12.45 Army Council. 1.15 Greatest Hits. 1.45 Saunders. 2.15 Ikoyi Sunset. 2.45 Bash Street Kid. 3.15 Vodkatini.

Winners on course for Aintree

Rupertino and Magic Tipp booked their places in the 1984 Grand National line-up by winning yesterday's handicap chases at Warwick and Newcastle respectively.

Superior stamina and jumping *ability enabled Rupertino to beat* Half Free in the Edward Courage Cup at Warwick. The 16-1 chance jumped to the front seven fences from home but Half Free was still going well at this point and drew level with Rupertino at the second *last. However, Half Free made* a mistake and Rupertino, putting in a splendid jump, forged ahead to come home three lengths clear of Fred Winter's charge.

Rupertino, will be a first runner in the National for Lord Kenyon, *his breeder, and will be partnered* by yesterday's successful jockey, Robert Stronge. "Rupertino is not fleet of foot but he plods on and he's a strong jumper", Lord Kenyon, said.

Magic Tipp earned a 100-1 quote *for the National after battling to a* half-length victory from Kumbi in the Game Bird Handicap Chase, at Newcastle. Ronan-Paul was in front three out but by the last fence the race had developed into a match between Kumbi and Magic Tipp. Kumbi *took a fractional lead on the* flat but David Dutton soon got to work on Magic Tipp and the pair regained the advantage halfway up the run-in.

John Blundell, the Grimsby trainer, said: "I will run Magic Tipp in the National trial at Market Rasen and assuming he goes well there, he will be my first National runner."

The Newcastle stewards questioned Tim Easterby, the jockey; and Steve Pearson, representing *Peter Easterby*, the trainer, *about* the running of Jobroke in the first division of the Partridge Novices' Hurdle, suggesting that "Jobroke never appeared to be put in the race with a chance."

Tim Easterby said: "The colt has run out several times over hurdles at home and during the race jumped indifferently. As a result Jobroke was well behind when entering the straight. On using my whip, I got little response." The stewards accepted this explanation.

Victory went to Albertat, ridden by Graham Bradley, who won by six lengths from Keycorn. Denys Smith, the Bishop Auckland trainer, was saddling his twentieth winner this season from *just* 18 horses and said: "I do not think Albertat is a *Cheltenham* horse. *He* has a lot to learn yet".

● Kevin Whyte, who was taken to Lincoln county hospital with an injured back after a fall at Market Rasen on Boxing Day, was described yesterday as "fairly comfortable".

Plumpton

Going: good.

12.45 HEATHFIELD HURDLE (Div. I: novices: £690: 2m) (15 runners)

1 1 ON THE WARPATH (Mrs E Boucher) D Oughton 4-11-3 P Double
2 30p/000 CHUCK'S SONG (P Rodford) P Rodford 6-11-1 –
3 p000p0/ FRIMLEY TOWN (Mrs C Leather) J Long 7-11-1 –
5 04 PADDY BORO (Mrs F Tyrwhitt-Drake) J Gifford 5-11-1 R Rowe
6 /30-040 TOWER WIN (D Turner) C Benstead 6-11-1 M Harrington
8 40 ARMY COUNCIL (Queen Mother) R Champion 4-10-12 H Davies
9 000p0-0 BREEZE HILL (D Barling) A Moore 4-10-12 C Warren 7
10 0000 CRUISE ON (E Ferrant) E Ferrant 4-10-12 –
11 024-044 EUROLINK BOY (Eurolink Computer Serv Ltd) A Moore 4-10-12 G Moore
12 0p003-0 MR CANDY (A Moore) A Moore 4-10-12 J Akehurst 4
13 0-p COME WHAT MAY (Miss L Aitkin) H O'Neill 6-10-10 G Newman
14 KINDLY THOUGHT (G Maundrell) G Maundrell 5-10-10 –
15 p LO-INCOST (R Dean) R Dean 4-10-7 –
16 0pp RAGSTONE GIRL (G Phillips) A Moore 4-10-7 –
17 SHELL LANE (Miss D Baker) Miss D Baker 4-10-7 M Hammond 4

4-9 On The Warpath, 3 Army Council, 7-2 Paddy Boro, 6 Tower Win, 9 Mr Candy, 12 Eurolink Boy, 16 others.

1.15 ARDINGLY HURDLE (Selling: handicap: £713: 2m) (16)

1 p/120-p RHEINGOLD'S GIFT (P Wright) N Lee-Judson 5-11-10 R Dennis 4
2 612402 CHASE THE LADY (CD) (I Baker) A Moore 4-11-8 G Moore
3 00-pp02 GREATEST HITS (BF) (R White) J Jenkins 6-11-6 J Francome
4 0-00400 THE DOWNS (A Robbins) D Jermy 7-11-5 G Old
6 0p0-00p STAR OF SALFORD (F Landrigan) J Long 5-11-3 –
7 400000 RAVENSBOURNE (D) (G Curzon) P Oliver 10-11-3 –
8 00pp-00 ESSAM (D Dyer) D A Wilson 5-11-2 R G Hughes
9 23400-0 BOTTISHAM (H O'Neill) H O'Neill 5-11-1 G Newman
10 31000-4 RED AMBION (CD) (K Poulton) J Long 11-11-0 –
11 24p-000 HAYWIRE (B)(CD) (M Keegan) M W Keegan 9-10-9 J Akehurst 4
12 004401 PEPPERWOOD (B)(D) (Miss A Healey) P M Taylor 3-10-8 (5ex) R Pusey 7
13 00000-0 BOURGEOIS (B) (D Barnes) Miss P O'Connor 8-10-7 D Hyde 4
14 0/22404 PALM THE ACE (I Laming) R Hoad 5-10-6 M Hoad 7
16 00000f VESPUCCI (G Ham) G Ham 11-10-3 B Powell 7
17 00/pp0p FORM UP (O Henley) O Henley 6-10-0 W Elderfield 7
18 400-02 SATCHMO (K Loads) W Guest 7-10-0 M Bowlby 7

11-4 Greatest Hits, 7-2 Pepperwood, 4 Red Ambion, 6 Chase The Lady, Palm The Ace, 8 Haywire, 12 others.

1.45 DEREK HAMBLING CHASE (Handicap: £2,880: 3m 1f) (10)

1 430-13f COLONEL CHRISTY (CD) (Mrs H McLaughlin) H O'Neill 8-12-5 G Newman
2 00dap4 KATMANDU (R Oakley-Moore) J Ffitch-Heyes 10-11-11 –
5 21/3-02 CROSA (S Jones) J Fox 8-11-7 S Moore 7
6 310421- TOWN COUNSELLOR (CD) (Mrs L Browning) D Browning 10-11-1 –
8 142141 ROUND THE TWIST (CD) (A Ross) D Oughton 7-10-12 P Double
9 042-223 PHYSICIST (CD) (Mrs D Padfield) J Gifford 11-10-12 R Rowe
10 2223-04 BUJOJI (R Ledger) R Ledger 10-10-11 –
11 02p1p-2 SAUNDERS (D) (T Clay) T Clay 9-10-6 –
13 4p/1222 VIEWED AWAY (CD) (Mrs L Clay) T Clay 8-10-0 –
14 00pp-pp PLAYFIELDS (A Baird Tennis Courts) P Burgoyne 9-10-0 Miss S Pilkington

5-2 Round The Twist, 3 Physicist, 7-2 Colonel Christy, 11-2 Town Counsellor, 7 Viewed Away, 14 others.

2.15 HEATHFIELD HURDLE (Div.II: novices: £690: 2m) (17)

1 11040 NAVAJO BRAVE (R Jones) R Hoad 5-11-11 M Hoad 7
2 23220-1 IKOYI SUNSET (G Ellis) S Woodman 4-11-3 J Francome
3 00-3400 BALLIMA (Mrs D Grissell) D Grissell 5-11-1 R Goldstein
4 2021-0p BARTRA (F Hill) A Moore 5-11-1 G Moore
5 0000-00 BIHAS BOUNTY (B) (D Goodwin) D A Goodwin 7-11-1 –
6 00p/0 BYROC BOY (B) (R Mathews) D Jermy 6-11-1 G Old
7 00-00p0 DEVON MINNOW (E Beever) E L Beever 6-11-1 –
8 OUR BIRTHDAY (D Turner) C Benstead 7-11-1 M Harrington
9 p00000- RHYTHM STICK (M Rawlings) M Rawlings 6-11-1 D Hyde 4
11 00-pf0p DECEPTIVE BOY (B) (J Bridger) J Bridger 4-10-12 –
13 JOHN FEATHER (Mrs J Ramsay) D Oughton 4-10-12 R Rowe
14 300104 MERCREDI (CD) (M Madgwick) M Madgwick 4-10-12 A Madgwick 4
15 2322-41 ROSTRA (D) (Col A Taylor) R Armytage 4-10-12 A Webber
17 4422 SIR BLESSED (R Williams) R J Williams 4-10-12 C Brown
18 0-0 HAWTHORN ARCH (Bar Equip & Refrigeration) J Fox 5-10-10 M Coyle
19 p-p HONEY'S SWEET (D Trusler) J F Panvert 7-10-10 –
20 00- PINK PARFAIT (R Dean) R Dean 5-10-10 M Hammond 4

9-4 Rostra, 11-4 Ikoyi Sunset, 4 Sir Blessed, 11-2 Navajo Brave, 9 Mercredi, 12 Ballima, 16 others.

2.45 RINGMER CHASE (Handicap: conditional jockeys: £909: 2m) (7)

1 p13042 BASH STREET KID (CD) (Mrs V Langford) D Oughton 8-12-7 G Charles-Jones
2 304-23p TRUNCHEON (D) (R Bastian) M Madgwick 8-11-8 G Madgwick
3 0b400-0 HOPEFUL ANSWER (W Murray) G Balding 10-11-3 R Chapman
4 0f0u1/p GREY TARQUIN (J Bridger) J Bridger 11-11-1 B Powell
5 321303 BRAHMS AND LISZT (J Parish) P Butler 7-10-12 –
7 33004f- ROCKBARTON (C) (K Higson) A Moore 8-10-11 C Warren
8 000334 DAN DARE (O Henley) O Henley 8-10-0 M Bowlby

6-4 Bash Street Kid, 3 Brahms And Liszt, 4 Dan Dare, 8 Grey Tarquin, 12 Truncheon, 16 others.

3.15 LADBROKE HURDLE (Handicap: £923: 2m) (16)

1 04114-0 THE CALVADOS KID (CD) (N Matheson) A Moore 5-12-0 G Moore
2 21106/0 DAY AFTER (D) (A Sheldrake) S Mellor 7-11-11 M Perrett
3 4020-00 MON'S BEAU (CD) (M Vine) D Grissell 8-11-6 R Goldstein
5 240-14f VODKATINI (CD) (D Richardson) P Haynes 4-11-0 –
6 441/300 COAL BUNKER (D) (J Baxter) R Hannon 6-10-13 P Corrigan 7
8 31200-0 MERCY LESS (D) (Sir G Glover) R Smyth 4-10-10 R G Hughes
9 43-0200 LORD OF THE REALM (D) (Mrs R Bonner) P Haynes 5-10-10 J Lovejoy 4
11 043120- ROMANA MIA (D) (J Sheehan) T Forster 4-10-8 H Davies
12 120-000 MAURICE'S TIP (CD) (D Motts) J Jenkins 5-10-8 J Francome
13 4-01104 SUPER TEK (CD) (J Howgego) B Wise 5-10-7 R Rowell
14 12p-00p TOPORI (J Pegley) S Woodman 4-10-7 P Nicholls
18 b02010- ONLY GORGEOUS (D) (Mrs J Blakesley) P M Taylor 4-10-4 R Pusey 7
19 0/20-00 TE KENAWA (E Beever) E Beever 6-10-3 –
20 00/0000 BALI GEORGE (D) (Mrs M Jackson) P M Taylor 6-10-0 A Carroll
21 113100- SUMMERCOVE (D) (K Higson) A Moore 7-10-0 J Akehurst 4
22 300/b0- ERRANTRY (D) (M Rawlings) M Rawlings 8-10-0 D Hyde 4

7-2 Vodkatini, 9-2 Mercy Less, Romana Mia, 11-2 Super Tek, 7 Mon's Beau, 10 Coal Bunker, 12 The Calvados Kid, Summer Cove, 16 others.

Fontwell results

Going: Good

1.0 TORTINGTON CHASE (Selling: handicap: £1,086: 3m 2f 110yd)
FRENCH BOB br g by French Vine – National Rose (T Jarvis) 9-9-10 Mr A Sharpe (9-2) 1
Ambremont J H Davies (3-1 fav) 2
Truncheon A Madgwick (4-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £5.20. Places: £1.40, £1.80, £1.30. DF: £9.30. CSF: £15.79. TRICAST: £44.32. W G M Turner at Hindon. 1l, 8l. Poor Son (12-1) 4th. 10 ran. No bid.

1.30 "SALMON SPRAY" HURDLE (4-y-o: £3,064: 2m 2f)
CUT A DASH b g by Bold Lad – Rosalie II (D Larke) 11-8 M Harrington (9-4 fav) 1
Berlin R Rowe (4-1) 2
Connaught River N Madden (7-2) 3
TOTE: Win: £3.70. Places: £2.10, £1.50. Recorded: £10.40. CSF: £10.55. Mrs N Smith at Chichester. 4l, 25l. Retsel (8-1) 4th. 8 ran.

2.0 TATTERSALLS CHASE (Novice mares: £1,153: 2m 2f 110yd)
BOOLY BAY b m by Le Prince – Pinafore (B Chinn) 6-10-8 J Goodwin (9-1) 1
Preeceena Wood P Warner (3-1 fav) 2
Furrette M Bastard (10-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £15.50. Places: £3.70, £1.50, £4.90. DF: £17.80. CSF: £34.59. B Chinn at Bristol. 3l, sh hd. Joedes Janet (100-30) 4th. 13 ran.

2.30 BRIGHTON HURDLE (Div I: 3-y-o: Novices: £804: 2m 2f)
SOUTHERNAIR b g by Derrylin – Port La Joie (S Powell) 10-9 W Smith (10-1) 1
Eversest J Francome (7-4 fav) 2
Saltz M Hammond (10-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £13.80. Places: £3.10, £1.80, £1.90. DF: £20.50. CSF: £25.77. P Haynes at Chichester. Nk, 20l. Tarleton Elm (12-1) 4th. 17 ran.

3.0 WHITELAW CHASE (Handicap: £2,422: 2m 2f 110yd)
THE SOMAC gr g by Scottish Rifle – Original Sin (M Finneran) 6-10-3 R Rowe (9-2) 1
Sweet Kybo P Double (7-2) 2
Master Nibble A Webb (10-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £4.60. Places: £2.00, £2.20. DF: £8.80. CSF: £18.72. Mrs N Smith at Chichester. 12l, ½l. Attaghaderry Run (5-1) 4th. Coral Leisure (5-2 fav). 7 ran.

3.30 BRIGHTON HURDLE (Div II: 3-y-o: Novices: £825: 2m 2f)
FLOYD ch c by Relko – Honey Palm (Mrs Y Gillespie) 10-5 A Madgwick (7-2) 1
Quite A Night P Double (9-1) 2
Be On Time J Francome (15-8 fav) 3
TOTE: Win: £4.90. Places: £1.60, £1.90, £1.70. DF: £42.00. CSF: £33.48. A Madgwick at Denmead. 15l, 3l. Gold Of A Gunner (12-1) 4th. 17 ran. NR: Solar Light.
PLACEPOT: £49.25.

Warwick

Going: soft

1.0 BOB CRATCHIT HURDLE Div I: Novices: £690: 2m
HARFORD br g by Goldhill – Sage-Willow (8-11-7) R Crank (3-1 jt fav) 1
Proof Writer P Croucher (12-1) 2
Tall Tale G McCourt (3-1 jt fav) 3
TOTE: Win: £3.80. Places: £1.50, £4.00, £1.90. DF: £34.30. CSF: £35.46. B McMahon at Tamworth. 2½l, 2½l. Echo Sounder (12-1) 4th. 20 ran. NR: Silly Sousk.

1.30 SCROOGE HURDLE (Novice: Selling: £483: 2m 5f)
PETROCELLI b g by Ragstone – Voracious (5-11-5) R Linley (7-4 fav) 1
Picotee M Caswell (4-1) 2
Inspector Ben Mr G Williams (20-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £2.70. Places: £1.70, £1.60, £2.30. DF: £5.10. CSF: £9.55. G Balding at Weyhill. 10l, sh hd. Dinner Date (5-2) 4th. 14 ran. Sold to Mr M Chapman 2,000 gns.

2.0 EDWARD COURAGE CHASE (Handicap: £3,303: 3m)
RUPERTINO ch g by Saucy Kit – Miss Kilmanseegg (8-9-13) R Stronger (16-1) 1
Half Free B de Haan (8-4) 2
Bashful Lad A Webber (4-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £12.30. Places: £2.90, £2.30. DF: £29.70. CSF: £49.47. E H Owen at Denbigh. 3l, 8l. Saint Taffy (2-1 fav) Williamson (40-1) 4th. 7 ran.

2.30 TINY TIM HURDLE (Handicap: £1,388: 2m)
CITY LINK EXPRESS, ch g, by Dubassoff – Chady, 6-10-13 P Scudamore (20-1) 1
Silent Echo Mr R Dunwoody (8-1) 2
Morning Lips A Carroll (25-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £18.00. Places: £4.20, £1.90, £5.50. DF: £72.60. CSF: £164.22. Tricast: £3,625.31. D A Wilson at Epsom. 2½l, 1½l. Bold Illusion (3-4 fav). Rawdy (25-1) 4th. 15 ran. NR: Rouse March.

3.0 JACOB MARLEY CHASE (Novices: £1,220: 2m)
GREEN BRAMBLE, b g, by Green Shoon – Bradicate, 6-11-4 H Davies (6-4 fav) 1
Westby Mr M Low (8-1) 2
Dawn Street G McCourt (8-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £2.40. Places: £1.50, £2.50, £2.40. DF: £13.20. CSF: £14.63. N Henderson at Lambourn. 6l, 7l. Glen Moy (16-1) 4th. 18 ran.

3.30 BOB CRATCHIT HURDLE (Div II: novices: £690: 2m)
PARISH RIGGED, b g, by Master Buck – Very Very 5-11-0 H Davies (33-1) 1
Falkland Hero Mr G Mernagh (10-1) 2
Flying Squad S Shilston (8-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £19.60. Places: £4.20, £1.90, 2,900. DF: £133.30. CSF: £332.81. T Forster at Wantage. 5l, 2½l. Marsh Lane (2-1 fav) 4th. 19 ran. NR: Bramblings, Fashion Boy, Mandy's Seal.

Newcastle

Going: Soft.

12.45 PARTRIDGE HURDLE (Div I: 3-y-o: £724: 2m 120yd)
ALBERTAT gr g by Habat – Albertina (J Spedding) 11-1 G Bradley (9-2) 1
Keycorn J J O'Neill (3-1) 2
Sweet Colleen A Dickman (10-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £4.40. Places: £2.20, £2.10, £2.00. DF: £4.20. CSF: £21.63. Denys Smith at Bishop Auckland. 6l, 3l. Vintage Toll (5-2 fav) 4th. 17 ran.

1.15 GROUSE HURDLE (4-y-o: Selling: £639: 2m 120yd)
EXCAVATOR LADY b f by Most Secret – Forgets Image (F Hines) 10-5 M Pepper (9-4 fav) 1
Tumble Jim J J O'Neill (5-2) 2
Citrus K Doolan (5-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £2.50. Places: £1.80, £1.30. DF: £2.10. CSF: £7.85. Mrs M Nesbitt at Middleham. 15l, 3l. Maracas Bay (11-4) 4th. 7 ran. No bid.

1.45 GAME BIRD CHASE (Handicap: £1,494: 2m 4f)
MAGIC TIPP b g by Merlin – Thasha (R Beeson) 10-11-7 D Dutton (13-2) 1
Kumbi K Doolan (20-1) 2
Snow Blessed J J O'Neill (3-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £5.30. Places: £1.70, £2.80, £1.50. DF: £49.90. CSF: £112.11. TRICAST: £435.35. J Blundell at Grimsby. ½l, 8l. Spring Chancellor (16-1) 4th. Chebble (2-1 fav). 10 ran.

2.15 NORTHUMBRIA CHASE (novices: £2,110: 3m)
BALLY-GO b g by Ballymoss – Cloudy (C Bell) 8-11-5 P Tuck (Evens fav) 1
Sam Wrekin M Dwyer (12-1) 2
Sunset Surprise G Bradley (11-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £2.00. Places: £1.40, £2.10, £2.10. DF: £11.80. CSF: £13.71. M W Easterby at Sheriff Hutton. 4l, 20l. Bawneen (50-1) 4th. 12 ran.

2.45 PHEASANT HURDLE (handicap: £968: 2m 4f)
THE DIVIDER b g by Leander – Davett (J Aitken) 5-10-3 R Lamb (9-4 fav) 1
Lady Lawyer B Storey (20-1) 2
Bavial J J O'Neill (5-2) 3
TOTE: Win: £3.80. Places: £1.40, £3.10, £1.50. DF: £44.00. CSF: £43.51. Mrs T Calder at Dens. 1l, 4l. Eboracum (5-1) 4th. 9 ran.

3.15 PARTRIDGE HURDLE Div. II: 3-y-o novices: £699: 2m 120yd
PACIFISTE br c by Mist IV – Pacifique (M Hellyer) 10-10 G Bradley (6-11 fav) 1
Ribbons Of Blue J J O'Neill (7-2) 2
Bigandon Mr T Easterby (11-4) 3
TOTE: Win: £1.80. Places: £1.40, £2.00, £1.30. DF: £3.30. CSF: £4.69. M Dickinson at Harewood. 8l, 7l, Busom (14-1) 4th. 13 ran. NR: Tarlatan.

TENNIS

Australia's success gives Fraser his greatest day

Melbourne, (Reuter) – Australia won the Davis Cup for the twenty-fifth time yesterday with a crushing performance of power, speed and accuracy form Pat Cash, aged 18.

The precocious teenager, who was the world's top junior last year, showed the talent which may one day make him the world's number one as he demolished Joakim Nystrom 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 to give Australia a winning 3-1 lead over Sweden.

Mats Wilander reduced the final deficit to 3-2 with a hollow 6-8, 6-0, 6-1 victory over John Fitzgerald in the "dead" singles, which was reduced to best-of-three sets.

Neale Fraser, the Australian captain, himself a member of four successive cup-winning teams from 1959 to 1962 and a successful captain in 1973 and 1977, called the victory "the greatest challenge of my life." He said: "For us to win the Davis Cup without a player ranked in the top 30 in the world ... you can go back to the record books but I don't think any other country ever won the cup without a player in the top 30."

"We have beaten players consistently ranked higher than us throughout the year – that to me is a tremendous achievement. I think it is a great thing for our players in the future – you don't necessarily have to have someone in the top 10 to win the Davis Cup," Fraser said.


Cash: a player who showed his talent

Australia's win gave Fraser more satisfaction than when he captained his country to victory in Cleveland against the United States in 1973, and in 1977 when Australia beat Italy in Sydney.

"In 1973 we had the best players in the world – Newcombe, Laver, Rosewall," he said. "I didn't have to be very good to look after them."

The Australian triumph was a victory for teamwork but in contrast, Sweden had only Wilander.

GOLF

Prize-money totals £3.5m for 1984

Record prize-money of £400,000 will be on offer in the 1984 Open Championship during a season when Europe's professional golfers will be trying to pick up large slices of the total of £3.5m on offer.

The leading fixtures, so far arranged, are:

JANUARY

5-8: President's Putter, Rye.

FEBRUARY

23-26: Nigerian Open, Lagos

MARCH

1-4: Ivory Coast Open, Yamoussoukro; 8-11: Kenya Open, Nairobi; 9: Roehampton Gold Cup, Roehampton; 10: Berkhamsted Trophy, Berkhamsted; 13-15: Avia Watches women's foursomes, Berkshire; 15-18: Mufulira Open, Zambia; 20-23: Sunningdale Foursomes, Sunningdale; 22-25: Zambian Open, Lusaka.

APRIL

5-8: Halford Hewitt tournament, Royal Cinque Ports; 6-8: Central England men's foursomes, Woodhall Spa; 9-14: Scottish boy's championship, Dunbar; 12-15: Tunisian Open, El Kantoui; 12-15: US Masters, Augusta; 14: Selborne Salver, Blackmoor; 15: Hampshire Hog, North Hants; 17: Lowndes Lambert under-25 championship, Sunningdale; 19-22: Clydesdale Bank Northern Open, Murcar; 20-21: England v France, Frilford Heath; 20-24: West of Ireland championship, co Sligo; 21-22: Duncan Putter, Southerdown; 26-29: Madrid Open, Puerto de Hierro; 26: England North v South girls match, Ilkley; 28-29: West of England stroke-play championship, Royal North Devon; 28-29: Helen Holm Trophy, Troon.

MAY

2-5: Ford women's classic, Woburn; 3-6: Italian Open, Milan; 5-6: Lytham Trophy, Royal Lytham; 9: South-East women's championship, Burnham Beeches; 10-11: Irish seniors championship, Connemara; 10-13: Car Care Plan international, Moortown; 12-13: Welsh stroke-play championship, Newport; 15-18: Scottish women's championship, Royal Dornoch; 16-19: Irish women's championship, co Sligo; 17-19: Welsh women's championship, Newport; 17-20: Clandeboye women's classic, Clandeboye; 17-20: French Open, St Cloud; 17-20: PGA Seniors championship, Stratford-on-Avon; 18-20: Brabazon Trophy, Royal Cinque Ports; 22-26: English women's championship, Hunstanton; 25-28: PGA championships, Wentworth; 30-June 1: St Andrews Trophy, Britain and Ireland v Continent, Saunton; 31-June 1: English seniors championship, Thetford; 31-June 3: Jersey Open, La Moye; 31-June 3: Manchester women's classic, Heaton Park.

JUNE

2: Rules women's trophy, St Andrews; 2-4: East of Ireland championship, co Louth; 4-8: Amateur Championship, Formby; 6: Aster Salver, Berkshire; 6-8: British Olivetti women's tournament, Old Thorns; 8-9: Curtis Cup, Muirfield; 7-10: Tournament Players' Championship, St Mellion; 12-15: PGA club professionals championship, Bolton Old Links; 13-16: United Friendly women's tournament, Hill Barn; 14-17: Timex Open, Biarritz; 14-17: US Open, Winged Foot; 16-17: Scottish amateur stroke-play championship, Blairgowrie; 16-17: Berkshire Trophy, Berkshire; 20-23: UBM women's classic, Ascot Hall; 21-24: Monte Carlo Open, Mont Agel; 23-24: Midlands open amateur championship, Little Aston; 23-24: Scottish youths stroke-play championship, Eastwood; 28-July 1: Glasgow Classic, Haggs Castle; 28-July 1: Guernsey Women's open, Royal Guernsey; 30-July 1: Irish youths championship, Bangor.

JULY

3-5: Scottish girls championship, Peebles; 5-8: Scandinavian Open, Stockholm; 9: Open Championship regional qualifying, Little Aston, Glenbervie, Lindrick, Camberley Heath, Pleasington, Porters Park, Wildernesse; 9-13: North of Ireland championship, Royal Portrush; 11-14: Lawrence Batley International, The Belfry; 11-15: European junior women's team championship, Spain; 12-14: Caldy women's classic, Caldy; 13-15: Tillman Trophy, Royal Cinque Ports; 15-16: Open Championship final qualifying, Ladybank, Leven, Lundin, Scotscraig; 17-19: English women's country finals, Lindrick; 17-19: Scottish boys stroke-play championship, Carnoustie; 19-22: OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, St Andrews; 23-26: Irish girls championship, Thurles; 24-27: Welsh boys championship, North Wales; 25-28: Carris Trophy, Moor Park; 25-28: Eastleigh women's classic, Eastleigh; 26-29: PGA Cup, Britain and Ireland v US, Turnberry; 26-29: Dutch Open, Arnhem; 28-Aug 1: South of Ireland championship, Lahinch; 28-Aug 4: Welsh amateur championship, Prestatyn; 29-Aug 2: Welsh girls championship, Pwllheli; 30-Aug 4: English amateur championship, Woodhall Spa; 30-Aug 4: Scottish amateur championship, Renfrew.

AUGUST

1-4: English girls championship, Bath; 2-5: Irish Open, Royal Dublin; 2-5: United Friendly women's tournament, Southport and Ainsdale; 7-9: English women's stroke-play championship, Moor Park; 7-8: Scottish girls stroke-play championship, Dunar; 7-10: White Horse Whisky women's challenge, Burnham Beeches; 8-10: British seniors championship, Western Gailes; 9-11: Irish women's interprovincial matches, Tullamore; 9-12: Celtic International quincentennial classic, Galway; 10-11: Boys internationals, Royal Porthcawl; 11-15: Irish amateur championship, Malone; 13-17: British boys championship, Royal Porthcawl; 13-18: British girls internationals and championship, Llandudno; 14-17: Jersey Open, Royal Jersey; 15-17: English women's intermediate championship, Whittington Barracks; 16-19: Benson and Hedges International, Fulford; 16-19: US PGA championship, Shoal Creek; 21-25: British youths internationals and championship, Blairgowrie; 22: Irish boys championship, Mullingar; 22-24: British women's stroke-play championship, Caernarvonshire; 23-26: German Open, Frankfurt; 23-26: Swedish women's open, Molle; 26-27: PGA junior championship, Gleneagles; 29-Sept 2: European youth team championship, Hermitage, Dublin; 30-Sept 2: European Masters/Swiss Open, Crans-sur-Sierre.

SEPTEMBER

4-6: Midlands women's championship, Bridgnorth; 4-7: South Western women's championship, Royal Porthcawl; 6-9: European Open, Sunningdale; 12-14: Men's home internationals, Royal Troon; 12-14: Women's match-play championship, Sudbury; 13-16: Hennessy Cognac Cup, Ferndown; 22-23: Welsh women's stroke-play championship, Aberdovey; 23: English county champions tournament, South Staffs; 24-27: Sands women's international, Saunton; 25-27: Scottish women's county finals, Murrayshall; 25-27: Northern women's championship, Tynside; 26-27: Welsh seniors championship, Aberdovey; 27-30: World match-play championship, Wentworth; 28-30: English county finals, Notts.

OCTOBER

3-6: British women's open, Woburn; 4-7: Lancôme tournament, Saint-nom-la-Bretèche; 4-7: Central England mixed foursomes, Woodhall Spa; 10-13: Irish women's open, venue to be arranged; 11-14: Spanish Open, Valencia; 12-14: Worplesdown Foursomes, Worplesdown; 18-21: Cannes Open, Cannes; 25-28: Sanyo Open, Barcelona; 30-Nov 2: Esprito Santo Trophy, Royal Hongkong.

NOVEMBER

1-4: Portuguese Open, Quinta do Lago; 7-18: Eisenhower Trophy, Royal Hongkong.

BASKETBALL

Perilous draw for English clubs

By Nicholas Harling

English clubs have contested the last two finals of the World Invitation Club championships, but there is a danger that by the time the first round of the seventh Philips-sponsored event is completed at Crystal Palace tonight, the British representatives will have dwindled to next to nothing.

None of the five English clubs, nor the lone Scots, Murray International Metals Edinburgh, have a first round tie that they can regard as a formality. Edinburgh, the fifth seeds, open proceedings against the Austrians from Klosterneuberg. They have probably the best chance of making progress, particularly if their guard, Alton Byrd, the former Palace favourite, has not used up too much energy commentating for Channel Four.

Edinburgh will be followed on court by Bracknell, who have accepted a late invitation to replace Burgerland, the Irish team which could not afford to compete. Bracknell face Simac Milan and one of the legendary figures of European basketball in Dino Meneghin. Milan, who also include Mike Dantoni, one of the longest serving Americans in Europe, may still find it hard justifying their position as second seeds. Bracknell can take heart from the fact that Milan were recently beaten at home in the European Cup Winners' Cup by the English League leaders, Solent Stars, it is a formidable tie for them. If their draw is tough, so are those of Austin Rover Sunderland, who face TUS 04 Bayer Leverkusen, the West Germans, TCB Brighton, who take on RTL Stade Francais, Ovaltine Hemel Hempstead, who will cause a major surprise if they come within 10 points of Athletes in Action, the Gospel-plugging fourth seeds, and Palace, the hosts, who will have their work cut out against Lech Poznan from Poland.

There are only two matches not involving British clubs. The first involves Red Star Belgrade and Yoga Fortitudo Bologna, and will being together Earl Williams, the inhibiting 17 stone American, now playing for the Italians and Rajko Zizic, the giant, brooding Slav.

Williams, whose past clashes with authority, opponents and furniture have been an essential ingredient of the entertainment and controversy that invariably accompanies the tournament, had an engrossing duel last year with Zizic. At the time, Williams was playing for Maccabi Tel Aviv, Who beat Crystal Palace in last year's final. Maccabi's presence in the last first round match tonight against the Dutch team, Werkendam, should ensure a full house until the end.

10.00: Edinburgh v Klosterneuberg; 11.35: Milan v Bracknell; 13.10: Sunderland v Leverkusen; 14.45: Red Star Belgrade v Bologna; 16.20: RTL Stade Français v Brighton; 18.00: Athletes in Action (US) v Hemel Hempstead; 19.35: Crystal Palace v Lech Poznan; 21.10: Maccabi Tel Aviv v Werkendam.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

DEATHS

STEBBINGS In her sleep on December 22nd, Margaret Beatrice, aged 94, dearly loved widow of Charles, mother of Angela and David, grandmother and great grandmother. Private service for family only, no flowers please, donations may be sent to Sunshine Fund for Blind Babies and Young People, 224 Great Portland St., W1N 6AA.

THOMPSON On 21st December, at Kings College Hospital, peacefully after a long illness, Harry, much loved husband of Betty and father of Peter, Andrew and Stephen and devoted grandfather. Family funeral on 29th December.

TOWNSEND On Boxing Day, Catherine Jane Margaret, aged 20, only daughter of Julian and Enid Townsend, peacefully, at home in St Albans after a short illness. No flowers, please, but any donations to the Paediatric Research Fund, National Heart Hospital, Westmorland Street, London, W1 "Non omnis moriar"

VAN DER STRAETEN-BEST. – On December 21 in Brussels, Marie-Anne, dearly loved wife of the late Clement.

VINCENT. – On December 22, 1983, peacefully at The Dunsden Nursing Home, Reading, William Richard, Chairman of Vincents of Reading, aged 69 years. The devoted and much loved husband of Vivien and loving father of William, Marcella, Harry, Charles, Louise and Clare, and grandchildren. The funeral service January 5, 1984, at 12 noon, at St John The Evangelist Church, Newbury, followed by a reception in the Parish Rooms, followed by cremation at Oxford Crematorium at 3.30pm. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to St John The Evangelist Parish Room Appeal.

WALLACE – On December 22nd, James Campbell, C.B.E., late C.S.V.O., M.R.C.V.S., suddenly at Tadworth, beloved father of Meg Lyndsay, Lower Close, Over Wallop. Private Cremation.

WARD, EDWARD BRUCE. – On Monday December 26 peacefully at his home in Beaconsfield. Much beloved husband of Catherine and uncle of Alan. Life president of Ward Blenkinsop and Company Ltd. Cremation private. No flowers or letters by request please. Memorial service to be announced later.

WATKINS. – On Monday, 19 December, suddenly, at Chertsey, Rachel, aged 22, elder daughter of Alan and the late Ruth Watkins, and sister of David and June. Funeral on Thursday, 29 December, at St Peter's Church, Chertsey, at 2.30pm. Flowers to Boasts, Chertsey.

WOOD – On December 24th suddenly Harriette Joan. Daughter of the late Mr & Mrs R D Barker, beloved wife of Haslam, mother of Daphne, Elizabeth and Sally. Funeral service at Cawthorne Parish Church on Friday 30th December at 3.15 pm followed by cremation at Ardsley, Barnsley [illegible]

WOOLF [illegible]

MEMORIAL SERVICES

WEST [illegible]

IN MEMORIAM (WAR)

HODGSON [illegible]

IN MEMORIAM

[illegible]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[illegible]

(JESUS) shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest ... and of his kingdom there shall be no end
St Luke 1: 32,33.

BIRTHS

BARNS, GRAHAM – On Christmas Day at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, Surrey, to Jackie (nee Owen) and Peter – a son (Robert Peter)

BENSON. – On December 23rd to Sue (nee Hatherly) and David – a son (Alistair Gillies).

BOURNE – On Christmas morning to Sarah (nee Hooker) and Richard a daughter Helen Mary, a sister for Benjamin and Oliver

BOYCE. – On December 28th at Shaftesbury Maternity Hospital, to Annette (nee Thompson) and Tony – a son (Jonathan Villiers Carlisle), a brother for Sally.

CARDER On Christmas Day at the West Cheshire Hospital, Chester to Fiona Mary (nee Dennett) and Stephen, a sister for Edward. Laura Helen, a wonderful Christmas gift.

DOMONE – on December 17th at the Rosie Maternity Hospital Cambridge, to John & Anne (nee Hennessey) a son, Simon Philip, a brother for Clive.

EAST – On Wednesday, 28th December, at Somerleigh Court, Dorchester, to Sarah and Richard, a son, a brother for Edward

EMERSON – on December 27, to Ronwen (née Nussey) and Roy a daughter Natasha.

EVES On December 23rd, to Colina (née Hare) and Lester – a daughter (Kezia Celine).

GOODBODY – on December 26 in Vitoria, Spain, to Heather (nee MacLeod) and Manliffe – a daughter Christian Louise a sister for Hugh and Jennifer.

GREGG – On December 22nd, 1983, to Tessa (née Pritchard-Gordon) and Tresham – a son (Tresham Dames Rowley), a brother for Georgina and Henrietta.

GROUNDES-PEACE. – On December 22nd, to Maria (née Mahoney) and Roderick – a son, Henry James.

[illegible]

BIRTHDAYS

[illegible]

DEATHS

ALEC-SMITH – on December 23, 1983, at the Nuffield Hospital, Hull, Rupert Alexander Alec Smith, TD, DLitt, FSA, JP, DL, of The Old Rectory, Winestead, Hull, aged 70. Dearly loved husband of Suzette and father of Alexandra. Funeral at Hessle, private. Memorial service at Holy Trinity, Hull, arrangements later. *No flowers, but donations to the* Holy Trinity Church Restoration Fund, c/o The Vicarage, 66 Pearson Park, Hull, will be appreciated.

ARTHUR – on Christmas morning Dr Leonard John Henry, peacefully at his home Royal Oak Cottage Church Broughton, Derbyshire, aged 67 yrs. Burial service at Church Broughton Church on Thursday, December 29 at 11.30am. Memorial service at Derby Cathedral on Saturday January 7, 1984 at 3pm.

BAILEY. – On Christmas Eve, 1983, Veronica, much loved elder daughter of Margaret and the late John Bailey, Wetheringsett, Wonersh, Guildford. Funeral Wonersh and Blackheath Cemetery on Tuesday, January 3, at 2.30pm. All those who loved her are welcome.

BALFOUR – On Boxing Day, Hugh George, in his 80th year, formerly husband of the late Juliet, dear husband of Bertha, father of Hugh and stepfather of Richard, Peter and Christopher. Funeral service at Wherwell Church on Friday, December 30th, at 11.30am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Royal Humane Society, Brettenham House, Lancaster Place WC2.

BARNETT – On December 25th, at his home in Petersfield, Brigadier Cecil Hugh, aged 76. Funeral private, family flowers only please.

BAYLEY – On December 26th, 1983, peacefully in her sleep, at St Mary's, Seaford, Alma Bayley (nee Elliot), formerly of Rottingdean. Service at Rottingdean Parish Church (St Margaret's) on Wednesday, January 4th, at 2 pm, followed by cremation. No flowers, but donations may be sent to Ovingdean Hall School for Partially Hearing Children, Brighton. [illegible]

EELEY on December 28, 1983, Thomas Evance Eeley husband of Cicely, father of Stephen and Simon. Private family funeral. Thanksgiving service at St Michael's at the North Gate Church, Oxford, Thursday, January 5 at 12.00 noon. No letters or flowers please. Any donations to Iffley Church Fund c/o 122 Church Way, Iffley, Oxford.

EIKENDAL – On 22nd December, [illegible]

[illegible]

HOLDEN. – On 26th December, peacefully at a nursing home, Richard Arthur Shuttleworth Holden, aged 74, of Tutts Clump, near Bradfield, Berks, late of Luckford, Suffolk. Dearly loved husband of Noel and father of Christopher and Joey. Funeral private. No flowers and no letters please.

INGHAM – on December 26, in Kitzbuhel, Austria, Lotte, widow of Frank and mother of Barbara and [illegible]

[illegible]

MELVILLE – In the early hours of Christmas Eve, in the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, Alan Melville, broadcaster, writer, actor, author, raconteur, producer, playwright and wit. All enquiries to his agents: Paul Vaughan Associates, 021 236 7420.

MILLIGAN – On December 21st, 1983, *Thomas "Desmond" Milligan* peacefully at St. Dunstans, Pearson House, [illegible]

[illegible]



هكذا من الأصل

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.30 News and information: available on every TV set.

6.30 Beakfast Time: Today's Thursday "specials" include farming (between 6.30 and 7.00).Breakfast Time doctor (8.30 – 9.00) and Glynn Christian's cookery item (8.45 – 9.00).

9.00 The New Adventures of Flash Gordon: cartoon version of the comic strip; 9.25 Why don't You . . .?: from Belfast; 9.50 Wacky Races: cartoon; 10.00 Play Chess! improving your board game; 10.10 Jackanory: Andrew Burt reads from Elizabeth Renier's The Lightkeepers (r); 10.15 Paddington: puppet story about the favourite bear (r); 10.30 Play School: Judith Kerr's story Mog's Christmas; 10.55 Postman Pat.

11.10 Smoke: Walt Disney story (in two parts) about a secretly-kept dog; 12.00 Look Back with Noakes: the Formula 5000 world of motor racing.

12.30 News After Noon; 12.45 Barasney Bear: cartoon; 12.50 Yellowstone Below Zero: The spurting geysers in America's Yellowstone National Park in winter; 1.15 Bonanza: old western series; 2.05 Brother of the Wind: A story of an old Canadian mountain man who raises a family of four wolf cubs.

3.30 The World of Stanley Holloway: A tribute to a sorely-missed comedian. With praise from Julie Andrews, Douglas Fairbanks Jnr and others; 4.20 Laurel and Hardy: cartoon; 4.25 Jackanory: part 2 of Thurber's The 13 Clocks; 4.40 Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends: cartoon 5.05 Blue Peter Review of the Year: Special guests include Pele, Bonnie Langford, Elton John, Torvill and Dean and a 16-year-old Mrs Thatcher impressionist; 5.35 Ivor the Engine.

5.40 News; 5.50 Cartoon:.

6.00 A Question of Sport: David Coleman puts questions to Max Boyce, Georgie Fame, Lennie Bennett and Anita Harris.

6.35 Tomorrow's World: Includes the high security anti-intruder device that fills the room with foam. And the lawnmower that becomes a snowmower.

7.00 Top of the Pops Review of 1983: Featuring (among others) JoBoxers, Spandau Ballet, Mike Oldfield, Tracey Ullman, The Cure, Rod Stewart and Wham. Plus Jonathan King on the American charts.

7.55 Rainbow Safari: David Attenborough, David Bellamy and Andrew Sachs take the natural colour trail through some wildlife wonderlands (what carrots and flamingoes have in common; the link between Christmas decorations and the bird of paradise; and – were dinosaurs blue with yellow stripes?)

8.45 News: with John Humphrys.

9.00 Film: Coma (1977) Thriller, based on the best-selling novel by Robin Cook, with Genevieve Bujold as the young surgeon whose life is in danger when she stumbles across a nasty and illegal medical conspiracy at a hospital after a number of cases of brain damage in routine operations. Definitely not for the squeamish. Co-starring Michael Douglas Elizabeth Ashley, Rip Thorn and Richard Widmark. Directed by Michael Crichton.

10.50 Sergeant Bilko: Phil Silvers up to more mischief in the United States Army.* (r).

11.15 Men v Women: Greg Norman plays Sandra Haynie on the Duke's Course at the Woburn Golf and Country Club.

12.05 News Headlines.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain: with Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. Today's "specials" include Pick of the Year (6.40 and 8.33), a visit to a celebrity's home town (7.45), the year's pop videos (7.53), Films (8.35) and Checkout (8.45). Regular items include news bulletins at 6.28, 6.58, 7.28, 7.58, 8.28 and 8.58; Morning papers (at 6.25).

9.00 Roland's Winter Wonderland

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines. Followed by: Sesame Street.

10.25 Film: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (1978) Made-for-television cartoon version of C. S. Lewis's charming fantasy about four youngsters' adventures in the magical land of Narnia. You will recognize many famous voices on the soundtrack (Sheila Hancock, Arthur Lowe, Leo McKern etc).

12.00 Teatime and Claudia: Merry Crispness; 12.10 Get up and Go! with Beryl Reid and Mooncat; 12.30 The Sullivans:

1.00 News; 1.20 Thames News;

1.30 Film: Great Expectations (1975) Dickens's great original is seriously diminished in Joseph Hardy's too highly polished film which stars Michael York as Pip, James Mason as Magwitch, Sarah Miles as Estella and Margaret Leighton as Miss Havisham. Others in the cast: Robert Morley, Anthony Quayle, Heather Sears and Joss Ackland. 3.50 Tweety Pie:

4.00 Mr Moon's Last Case: Film version of Brian Patten's book about a retired detective superintendent (Stratford Johns) who joins with some children in protecting a leprechaun (Big Mick); 4.45 The Sooty Story – the First Thirty Years: How the glove puppet is bought to life (toddlers who really believe that he is real, should not watch); 5.15 The Young Doctors: medical life, Australian-style.

5.45 News; 6.00 Thames area news; 6.35 Crossroads: An urgent call from the maternity hospital.

7.00 Candid Camera: Highlights from the United State series, presented by Allen Funt.

8.00 Shelley: The layabout (Hywel Bennett) is invaded by vampires, paying social calls.

8.30 Hotel: The continuing story of the guests and staff of the luxurious St Gregory Hotel. Tonight, Peter's former wife unexpectedly returns on his birthday, and an elderly couple arrive at the hotel with the intention of having a free weekend.

9.30 News from ITN.

9.45 Film: The Dogs of War (1980) Film version of the Frederick Forsyth bestseller with Christopher Walken as the mercenary who, posing as a magazine photographer, becomes an investigative agent for an unscrupulous international corporation. Co-starring Tom Berenger, Colin Blakely, Robert Urquhart and Hugh Millais. Directed by John Irvin.

11.45 The Gee, the Rick and the Three Card Trick. With the January sales already in full spate, Bill Wigmore investigates the dummy gold watches, the £5 ice creams and the rigged card games that are designed to empty the pockets of unwary visitors who try to run the gamut of the unscrupulous traders outside London's big department stores.

12.15 Night Thoughts: from Max Sinclair, assistant director of the Christian Centre, Hildenborough Hall, in Kent.



The Snowman: re-shown on Channel 4 at 7.30pm

CHOICE

● With 1984 only days away, it was entirely predictable that our television screens would be awash with Orwelliana, and our radio sets crackling with it. And there is much more of the same to come. It is, possibly, without precedent that so much programming should be keyed, not to an anniversary, but to a book title – a title, moreover, that owed its existence to nothing more sinister than the transposition of two final digits (1984 was conceived in 1948). Channel 4 transmits Willis Hall's dramatized documentary about Orwell in mid-January, with James Fox as the writer. All next week, on both BBC radio and television, there will be reminders of the peculiar relevance that Orwell gave to the new-born year, and tonight (BBC 2, 6.00pm) sees the start of Arena's five-part biography of the writer which will reach its climax – and conclusion – next Wednesday night with the events that surrounded the penning of 1984.

● BBC radio which in my opinion, knocked its televisual Big Brother into a cocked hat during the Christmas period, continues its run-up to the New Year with another day of formidable offerings, beginning on Radio 3 at 1.05 with this year's Bayreuth Festival production of DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NURNBERG, with Siegfried Jerusalem as Walther and Mari Anne Haggander as Eva. I suggest you sacrifice half-an-hour of Wagner and switch over to Radio 4, at 2.00, for the repeat broadcast of Russell Davies's wickedly mickey-taking A DAY IN THE LIFE OF RADIO 4. Spoofs can often do themselves a serious injury by skidding on their own banana skins. Here is one that does not. Still on Radio 4, at 3.00, Afternoon Theatre repeats the BBC World service adaptation of the film script of BRIEF ENCOUNTER, with Ian Holm and Cheryl Campbell taking over the Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson roles. Enough of the old magic spills over from the film to make this radio reincarnation worth tuning in to. The evening's listening offers a difficult choice: There is another Coward play, PRIVATE LIVES (8.00) co-starring Paul Scofield and Patricia Routledge, and Michael Williams playing the title role in Brecht's SCHWEYK IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR (Radio 3, 7.00). I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Placido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is fast approaching the climax of Conan Doyle's THE POISON BELT AT 11.00pm. Predictably, next week's Book at Bedtime is 1984.

BBC 2

1.55 Everybody Sing (1938*) Happy-go-lucky musical about a theatrical faimly who, with their servants, decide to put on a Broadway show. Starring Judy Garland, with Allan Jones, Fanny Brice (the musical *Funny Girl* was based on her life) and Reginald Owen. Directed by Edwin L. Marin.

3.25 Machines in Motion: The third of Professor Leonard Naunder's Royal Institution Christmas Lectures for Young People. Today's topic: vibration.

4.25 Suspicion (1942) Hitchcock's mystery yarn, from Francis Isle's book *Before the Fact*, stars Cary Grant as the man-about-town whose wife (Joan Fontaine, in a performance that won her a Hollywood Oscar) discovers that not only is he an embezzler – but, possibly, something far worse: a murderer. Co-starring Cedric Hardwicke, Nigel Bruce and Dame May Whitty.

6.00 George Orwell: First of five BBC2 programmes from the Arena stable devoted to the writer's life and works. Tonight's film traces his early life from birth in India and childhood in Henley, to his prep school experiences, then Eton and service with the Burma Police, and the publication of his first book *Down and Out in London and Paris*. Contributions from (among others) Malcolm Muggeridge, Cyril Connolly, Professor Bernard Crick and Jacintha Buddicon.

6.55 News summary: with sub-titles.

7.00 Film: The Gypsy Moths (1969) Adventure thriller about three sky-divers who find love (and death) while touring small towns in the Mid-West of the United States. Starring Burt Lancaster, Deborah Kerr, Gene Hackman, Scott Windom and Bonnie Bedelia. Directed by John Frankenheimer.

8.45 Orpheus in the Underworld: Brand-new production of Offenbach's comic opera, which pokes fun at Greek mythology, starring Denis Quilley (as the Emperor Napoleon III, who imagines, during a dream, that he is Jupiter), Honor Blackman (as both the Empress Eugenie and Juno), Christopher Gable (Mercury), Lilian Watson (Eurydice) and Alexander Oliver (Orpheus).

10.45 New on Two.

10.50 Film: A Night in Casablanca (1946*) The Marx Brothers versus some comical Nazis in wartime North Africa. Groucho plays a hotel manager, Harpo plays Lizst's Second Hungarian Rhapsody, and Chico plays the "second movement of the Beer Barrel Polka". Co-starring Charles Drake, Lois Collier, Sig Ruman, Directed by Archie Mayo. Ends at 12.15am.

CHANNEL 4

12.30 Animated Fables: Cambridge Animation Festival director Antoinette Moses introduces cartoons.

12.55 The Pasternaks: An extended interview with Josephine and Lydia, the two septuagenarian sisters of Boris Pasternak, who wrote *Doctor Zhivago*. They share a house in Oxford. There are also passages of commentary by the scholar and critic Henry Gifford, father of Nick Gifford, who made today's film.

1.50 Gymnastics: 1983 – A Spectacular Year: Steve Rider introduces these highlights from a year when many new records were set.

2.55 Film: Holiday Inn (1942*). Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby play the hotel owners who fall out when they both fall in love with the same girl (Marjorie Reynolds). Also starring Virginia Dale, Walter Abel and Louise Beavers. Directed by Mark Sandrich, with a score of hit songs (including White Christmas) by Irving Berlin.

4.45 Film: The Courtneys of Curzon Street (1947*). Romantic drama, spanning three generations, co-starring Anna Neagle and Michael Wilding. A considerable box-office attraction, in its time. Co-starring Gladys Young, Coral Browne, Michael Medwin and Daphne Slater. Directed by Herbert Wilcox.

6.50 Look Forward: An appetizer for three forthcoming Channel 4 attractions – *The Far Pavilions, The Jewel in the Crown*, and *The Heart of the Dragon*.

7.00 Channel 4 News. Denis Healey is interviewed.

7.30 The Snowman: Cartoon version of Raymond Briggs's much-loved picture-book story about a snowman who comes to life and, after a spin on a motor-cycle, flies off with a young lad to the North Pole to meet Santa Claus.

8.00 A Pattern of Roses: A ghostly yarn, based on K. M. Peyton's story, about two teenagers living in the 1980s, obsessed with the life and death of a young farm lad who died decades before they were born. Gradually, the story of the boy's death emerges. The teenagers are played by Stuart Mackenzie and Suzanna Hamilton. Also starring Vivian Pickles and Norman Rodway.

9.30 Land of the Lakes: Melvyn Bragg among the Cumbrians – the second of three films, penned by him, and presented by him. Tonight, how the village of Troutbeck is still linked with its long-ago past. Lord Lonsdale comments on the life-style of the local aristocracy.

10.30 Film: Thank You, Mr Moto (1937*). Peter Lorre, as the diminutive private eye, is involved in a search of the lost treasure of Genghis Khan. Ends at 11.50pm.

Radio 4

6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 News Briefing.
6.35 Daybreak with Eugene Fraser. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 News Summary.
7.30 Today, including 7.30 News Summary. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.00 Today's News. 8.25 Sport.
8.30 Quote . . . Unquote.†8.59 Weather; Travel.
9.0 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs. Baroness von Trapp talks to Roy Plomley.†(r)
10.00 News; Travel; Points of Departure with Christopher Matthews.
10.15 Crotal and White. In the fourth of five programmes, Finlay J. Macdonald recalls his boyhood in the Hebrides: Spoils of War.
10.30 Morning Story: "A Shocking Murder" by Pat Burchard, read by June Barrie.
10.45 Joy to the World (4) Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men. Music and words for Christmas.
11.00 News; Lorna Doone by R. D. Blackmore (4). (r).
12.00 News; Paddy in his Wellies. Denys Hawthorne investigates some of the myths behind people's ideas of "the stupid Irish paddy!".
12.30 Just a Minute with Kenneth Williams. 12.55 Weather; Programme News.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 A Day in the Life of Radio 4. A fairly typical day . . . but not quite as we usually hear all the familiar programmes. A second chance to hear this entertaining leg-pull.
2.45 Bolshoi Tyshinsky No 26 (3). The tale of honest Andredi Petrovich, craftsman.
3.00 News; Afternoon Theatre: "Brief Encounter" by Noel Coward. A repeat broadcast of this radio version of this famous film which starred Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard. In this production, Ian Holm and Cheryl Campbell play the middle-aged lovers that go to the brink. This is a BBC World Service drama production.†
4.00 Down Your Way. Highlights from a year's travel through Britain.
4.40 Story Time: "The Wind in the Willows" by Kenneth Grahame (6). Read by Bernard Cribbins..
5.00 PM: News Magazine.
5.35 Elkins in Israel. In the fourth of six talks, Michael Elkins talks about the history of modern Israel: Bitter Harvest. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather; Programme News.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News.
6.15 The Best of Maigret (4). Maigret Sets a Trap. With Maurice Denham as the famous French detective and Michael Gough as his creator (s).
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 The Songwriters' Guide to Victorian Sensations with Roy Hudd and Charles West who sing the songs that entertained our grandparents and their parents (r).
8.00 Coward at Christmas. "Private Lives" by Noel Coward.†A repeat broadcast of the production which stars Paul Scofield, Partricia Routledge, Miriam Margolyes, John Rye and Carol Boyd. With music by Willian Davies.
9.30 Kaleidoscope. An interview with the veteran actress Dame Peggy Ashcroft. She talks to Michael Billington. 9.59 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight: News.
10.30 Conversations with Domingo. Daniel Snowman talks to the great Spanish tenor. This is the second of two programmes.
11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "The Poison Belt" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (4). Read by Peter Pacey.
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Don't Stop Now – It's Fundation. Songs and sketches.
12.00 News.
12.10 Weather.
12.15 Close; Shipping Forecast.

ENGLAND VHF above except: 6.25-6.30 Weather; Travel. 1.55-2.00pm Listening Corner. 5.50-5.55 Programme News.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: part one. Beethoven (overture Egmont), Mozart (Concerto in C for flute, harp and orch, K 299), Borodin (Polovtsian Dances from Prince Igor)†
8.00 News.
8.05 Milhaud (Symphony No. 1), Glazunov (Violin Concerto in A minor, played by Heifetz and the RCA Orch), and Schumann (Symphony No. 4).†
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Respighi. We hear the symphonic poem Roman Festivale, the Lauda per la natvita del Signore (Robert Tear, (tenor) Jill Gomez, (soprano) and Meriel Dickinson, (mezzo).)†
10.00 Pastoral Symphonies: Gaetano Maria Schiassi's Sinfonia in D: Sammartini's Concerto Grosso in G minor, Op 5, No. 6; and Manfredini's Sinfonia in D, Op 2, No. 12.†
10.40 Christmas Music: the BBC Singers sing Christopher Brown's Hodie Salvator Apparault, Arthur Wills's Variations on a Carol, for organ; and William Mathias's Ave Rex (A Carol Sequence). From St Alban's, Holborn, London†
11.30 BBC Philharmonic Orchestra: with violinist Nigel Kennedy. Berlioz's overture Le Corsair; Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor; and, at 12.15, Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 3.†
1.00 News.
1.05 Wagner's Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg. Three-act opera, recorded at this year's Bayreuth Festival, with the Festival forces conducted by Horst Stein. The cast: Siegfried Jerusalem (Walther), Mari Anne Haggander (Eva), Hermann Prey (Beckmesser), Bernd Weikl (Sachs), Manfred Schenk (Pogner) and Graham Clark (David). Act one†
2.30 The Poetry of Mary Webb: The presenter is Michael Finch, and the reader is Rosalind Shanks.
2.50 Die Meistersinger von Numberg: the second act†
3.55 Quacks and Doctors: a talk by Roy Porter, Senior Lecturer in the Social History of medicine, Wellcome Institute. The question he discusses is: what is 'proper' medicine, and what is 'quackery'?
4.15 Die Meistersinger von Numburg: the third and final act in the Bayreuth Festival production†
6.25 Bandstand: the Kilmarnock Concert Brass play Stephen Bulla's Tangents, Gareth Wood's Culloden Moor, and Malcolm Arnold's Fantasy for Brass Band†
7.00 Schweyk in the Second World War: Brecht's play has been translated by William Rowlindson. With music by Hanns Eisler. Michael Williams plays Schweyk who, having come through the first World War in one piece, sets out to survive the Second. With Dilys Laye and Roger Hammond. Playing the two pianos: Richard Rodney Bennett and Susan Bradshaw. With the BBC Scottish SO†
9.30 Brahms: Vocal Quartets. We hear the Op 92, the Four Gypsy Songs Op 112, and the Marienwurmchen (Children's Folksongs, No. 13). With Edith Mathis (soprano), Brigitte Fassbaender (contralto), Peter Schreier (tenor) and Dietrick Fischer-Dieskau (baritone), and Karl Engel (piano)†
9.50 Music in Our Time: First UK broadcast performances of Gordon Crosse's Dreamcannon I, Patric Standford's Taikyoku, and Giles Swayne's Count-down. With Teresa Perrett (mezzo), Howard Shelley (piano and percussion), Hilary Macnamara (piano), Giles Swayne (percussion), BBC Singers and members of Lontano (percussion)†
11.00 The Complete Webern: Four Pieces, Op 7, for violin and piano; Slow Movement for string quartet, 1905, with Nona Liddell, Joan Atherton (violins), Donald McVay (cello) and Christopher von Kampen (cello). With John Constable (piano)†
11.15 News. Until 11.18.

Radio 2

News on the hour (except 8.00 and 9.00pm). Major bulletins 7.00, 8.00am, 1.00, 5.00pm and 12.00 midnight. Headlines 5.30, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30am (MF/MW). 5.00am Ray Moore. † 7.30 Terry Wogan. † 10.00 Jimmy Young. † 12.00pm Music While you Work with the Zack Laurence Trio.† 12.30 John Craven. 2.02 Sports Desk.† 2.30 Ed Stewart. 3.02 Sports Desk. † 4.00 David Hamilton. † 4.02.-5.30 Sports Desk. 6.00 John Dunn. 6.45 Sport and classified results (MF only).† 7.30 Marching and Waltzing. † 8.30 Country Club with Wally Whyton. † 9.30 Star Sound Extra with Nick Jackson. Guests include John Cleese, Peter Cushing, Dustin Hoffman, Vincent Price and Anthony Perking. 9.57 Sports Desk. 10.00 The Huddlines Brief of the Year. 10.30 Brian Matthew presents Round Midnight (stereo from midnight). 1.00am Grand Hotel. † 2.00-5.00 Peter Dickson presents You and the Night and the Music. †

Radio 1

News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 9.30pm and then 12.00 midnight (MF/MW). 6.00am Adrain John with The Early Show. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Mike Smith, incl 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.00pm Steve Wright. 4.30 Peter Powell, incl 5.30 Newsbeat. 7.00 David Jensen. 1.00-12.00 John Peel's Festive 50. Listeners' top 50 tracks (nos. 10-1) † VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00am With Radio 2. 10.00pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Country Style. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The Painter of Signs. 8.30 John Peel. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Two Hundred Years of Piano Playing. 10.15 Monitor. 10.30 Two Cheers for 1983. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 New Ideas. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Top Twenty. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 1.30 Network UK. 1.45 The Pleasure's Yours. 2.30 George Orwell and 1984. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Performing Flea. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Interview with the Reith Lecturers. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Welcome Yule!. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 9.15 Ulster Newsletter. 9.20 In the Meantime. 9.30 The Stock Market. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 The Week in Wales. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 11.30 Welcome Yule. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Radio Theatre. 1.15 Sarah and Company. 1.45 Ulster Newsletter. 1.50 In the Meantime. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 At Home With. . . 2.30 Sir Adrian Boult: A Life of Music. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 The Stock Market. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Country Style. 5.45 The World Today.

(All times in GMT)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

BBC1 WALES 12.42-12.45pm News. 5.50-6.00 Wales today. 9.00-10.30 'The Extremist' by Paul Ferris.- 10.30-11.20 Men v Women. 11.20-1.00am Film: 'Coma' (1977) (Michael Douglas). SCOTLAND 12.40-12.45pm Scottish news. 5.50-6.00 Scottish news. 12.05am Scottish news summary. NORTHERN IRELAND 12.42-12.45pm Northern Ireland news. 5.50-6.00 Northern Ireland news. 12.05am Northern Ireland news. ENGLAND 5.50-6.00pm London: Cartoon – 'Alias St Nick'. All other regions: Regional News. 12.10am Close.

S4C Starts 12.30pm Ffalabalam. 12.45 Huckleberry.Finn. 2.35 World Badminton Championships. 3.30 Land of the Lakes. 4.25 Animated Fables. 4.50 Guto Goch a Malwen. 5.05 Anturiaethau Syr Wynff a Plwmsan. 5.30 A day in the Garden: Street entertainers.6.30 Brookside. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.15 Teulup-ffon . 8.15 What the Dickens! 9.40 Y Bwystfil. 11.25 Pasternaks. 12.20am Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 5.15 Foo Foo. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.30-7.00 Now You See It. 11.45 Late Call. 11.50 Benson. 12.20am Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

TSW As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 5.15 Gus Honeybun. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 Gardens for All. 11.45 Randy Edelman. 12.15am Postscript. 12.21 Closedown.

TVS As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Admiral's Cup. 1.20-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Coronation Street. A tribute to Violet Carson (Ena Sharples). 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.35-7.00 Crossroads. 11.45 Showcase. 12.15am Company, Closedown.

HTV WEST As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Three Little Words. 6.00 News. 6.35 Crossroads. 11.45 Hallelujah Hollywood. 12.45am Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.35 Wales at Six.

BORDER As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00 Lookaround. 6.35-7.00 Crossroads. 11.45 All Kinds of Country. 12.15am News, Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 12.30p-1.00 Survival of the Fittest. 1.20-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Whose Baby? 6.25-7.00 News. 6.00 crossroads. 11.45 Peter Sarstedt. 12.30am Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25am First Thing. 1.20pm-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Survival. 6.00 North Tonight. 6.35-7.00 Crossroads. 11.45 Reflections. 11.50 Crann Tara. 12.20am News, Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: Starts 12.00pm-12.10 Teatime and Claudia. 1.20-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Beverly Hillbillies.* 600 Channel Report. 6.30 Crossroads. 6.55-7.00 Mr Magoo. 11.45 Randy Edelman. 12.15 Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Stingray. 1.20-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 Calendar. 6.35-7.00 Crossroads. 11.45 Evening with Charles Aznevour. 12.50am Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 9.25am-9.30 Day Ahead. 1.20pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 5.15-5.45 Whose Baby? 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.25 Cartoon. 6.35-7.00 Crossroads. 11.45 News, Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Peter and the Wolfe. 1.20-1.30 Granada Reports. 5.15-5.45 Beverly Hillbillies.* 6.00 Crossroads. 6.25 News. 6.30-7.00 Every McGann Show. 11.45 Replay '83. 12.30am Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News and Lookaround. 5.15-5.45 Carry on Laughing. 6.00 News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 Northern Life. 11.45 Music Special. 12.30 Christian Christmas, Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 10.25am Happy Days. 10.50 Bolshoi School of Ballet. 11.50-12.00 Cartoon. 1.20pm-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Whose Baby? 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35-7.00 Crossroads. 11.45 Ladies Man. 12.15am It's in the Cards, Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN. † Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat.

Policeman's widow speaks of dangers

Continued from page 1

forced down a basement and we had to stay there for two hours." But of the the Harrods bombers, she said: "I do not think I could forgive them. I'd feel very little about them".

Mr Dodd, who was 6ft 8ins tall, had "totally and utterly" lived up to his nickname of "gentle giant", she said. "he was a dedicated policeman."

While her husband was one of the force's tallest policemen, Mrs Dodd was one of the smallest, but she was given the task of training him on beat duties in the King's Cross area of London.

"I am sure they did it for a joke, we looked so ridiculous. But we fell in love on the beat, and he proposed to me on the beat."

After they married, her husband went on to become, aged 23, one of the youngest sergeants, and was commended for bravery after tackling a gunman during a routine call to a domestic row.

Being a former police officer helped her to understand the real nature of the job her husband was doing. "I married him knowing he was doing a dangerous job – though it was getting more dangerous as the years went on.

"He discussed with me, when there was a possibility of a bombing campaign, exactly what he would do.

He said he did not care if he was made to look an idiot. If there was ever a suspect package he would clear the streets and make sure there were no civilians that could be injured.

The couple had drifted apart when Mr Dodd was preparing for his inspectors' examinations, and she was studying for a Batchelor of Humanities degree in business studies and history at Roehampton, Surrey.

"Steve and I had been separated for a year, but we were still very good friends", she said. "There wasn't a day when I hadn't spoken to him. We would have spent Christmas together. It was always there that there could be a reconciliation.'

She explained to the children at the start that their father had been involved in the Harrods bomb blast and that he had been injured.

Mrs Dodd stayed with her husband at the hospital as doctors fought to save his life, and he died with his wife at his side.

West End quiet as shoppers flock to suburbs



Sales security: Regent Street (left); police in Oxford Street (top) and a bag check at Debenhams. (Photographs: Suresh Karadia)

By Robin Young

The West End was quiet yesterday, compared with the packed shopping centres at Croydon, Romford and Brent Cross.

At Brent Cross, north London, the car parks were full before the shops opened. Allders of Bromley reported 898 people in the queue before opening time - more than almost any at the big West End stores.

There is no doubt that fear of IRA bombs in the West End has benefited suburban stores.

Mr Peter Harrison, an Allder's director, said that the Bromley store's takings had been 41 per cent up on last year in the week before Christmas.

"Our stores in Sutton, Croydon, Camberley, Eltham and Chatham, and Arding and Hobbs in Clapham, are all reporting very brisk business and record sales. We expect overall that our first day of sale trade is going to be at least a quarter more than last year".

However, the Army and Navy group, which reported a good first day's trading for Barker's of Kensington on Tuesday, said that it was well satisfied with trade at all its stores: "There is no indication that the central London shops are doing less well than those in the suburbs and provinces", a spokesman said.

At Aquascutum and Dickins and Jones in Regent Street, although staff thought that crowds were thinner than previous years, management said that goods were selling as fast as ever. The situation was similar at Simpson's in Piccadilly.

At Debenhams in Oxford Street, trade was reported "as normal as we could expect" and making up for a slow start on Tuesday when public transport difficulties were blamed for keeping many shoppers away.

"We expect trade to level with last year over the full week," a spokesman said.

At Liberty in Regent Street I was told: "Do not judge a sale by the numbers of people. Wall-to-wall crowds can actually hamper trade".

Liberty announced yesterday that it would hold a special "half of sale price sale" on January 2, "to say 'thank you' to loyal customers who have supported us so well".

Competitors said that this move smacked of desperation, but Liberty said: "We are doing extremely well."

Trading at several stores was disrupted by hoax bomb warnings and suspiciously-parked cars, however. The police dealt with more than 50 false alarms yesterday.

The 700 extra officers drafted into London will remain on duty until the winter sales are over, the police said. They praised the public for its cooperation in not driving to central London and extra vigilance.

The Automobile Association reported that motorists caused problems in many other congested city centres by parking illegally when car parks were filled. Congestion was worst in Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle.

Mr Philip Ilsley, from Windsor, established a record for sale-queuing by camping for 15 days outside Selfridge's, which was damaged by a bomb on Christmas Day. He ended his vigil, in aid of the Sue Ryder Foundation, by buying a ballpoint pen reduced from £2.25 to £1.50.

Letter from New York

A city devoted to its stomach

In front of me is a magazine photograph, showing a determined security policeman in a baseball cap holding a rifle. He is in a New York meat market guarding pig carcases. It is, in its way, an American metaphor: abundance, red meat, macho pose and gun. But it is also absurd: here is a man apparently prepared to kill, or lay down his life for dead pigs.

Men who guard meat with rifles and sub-machine guns are cogs in the machinery of supply in the eating capital of the world, a city devoted to its stomach.

They are the protectors of commodities of considerable value, but ones that are by no means in short supply. New Yorkers consume 250,000 tons of beef alone every year, and they spend £7 billion a year on food, a good part of it in restaurants. Indeed, you have not seen abundance until you have seen New York, its countless restaurants, delicatessens and 24-hour food shops, the amazing quantity and variety of food offered.

Of all cities New York is unexcelled in the extent and diversity of eating houses. In a country where there are more restaurants per hundred mouths than anywhere in the world, New York is the champion. A young man setting out to eat in a different Manhattan restaurant every night could not dine in them all in his lifetime; and, for his pains, he would be overcharged in many and meet bossy waiters in more than a few.

Restaurant-going for New Yorkers is more than a matter of nourishment, social intercourse and entertainment. It is part of the dynamics and drama of the lives of a self-absorbed and suggestible tribe. It is part of the way in which people with high disposable income, living in small apartments, determinedly enjoy a New York lifestyle and express themselves.

They ache to be favoured by imperious *maîtres* of fashionable restaurants and queue like Muscovites in search of toilet paper to enter crowded popular places. They roam like herds to graze, and be seen grazing, in new pastures. They read robust reviews and learn, for example, that one restaurant's steaks "would not be touched by a starving mongrel".

Dedicated diners subscribe to a small magazine which signposts trends, spotlights good cooking and tells you where you can dine for £100 for two and get awful food. It reveals where film stars eat, so that you can eat and stare, and which restaurant divides clients into "divine people and peasants". It makes a virtue of its small circulation, pointing out that if *The New York Times* recommends a place you may be trampled as the herd rushes over to it.

New York eaters are coming to terms with the retirement from active nosebagging of the great Mimi Sheraton, doyenne restaurant critic of *The New York Times*. After more than seven years' reviewing three or four restaurant lunches a week, as well as dinners, she has had to leave the journalism she loved, and her magnificient expense account, felled at last by obesity.

She worked incognito, but she was that nice, plump lady enjoying her food and getting plumper. "I had a hard time leaving anything on my plate," she confessed in a recent recollection of her dining years. Three years ago she found she weighed 14 stone, and took five months off to diet. Back to 14 stone again, she has hung up her knife and fork.

New York restaurants and homes are fed by a complex victualling network, the equivalents of Smithfield, Billingsgate and Covent Garden. But food shopping here is unlike that of most parts of the United States. There are few huge supermarkets because there is little space for them; and New Yorkers are not in the habit of doing a week's shopping at one time.

There are many fingers in such a rich pie. Gangsters control much of the fish market and their cut is reflected in higher prices. Dairies, which for years conspired to fix milk prices, have agreed to pay a £350,000 fine and refund £4m to consumers.

Between the Mafia, the waiters who expect big tips and the higher costs of supplying and serving food, New York can be expensive to eat in.

Recently, in my local 24-hour greengrocery, a woman was complaining to the manager about prices. "It's outrageous," she cried.

"It's New York," he said, as the till bell pinged.

Trevor Fishlock

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Last chance to see

Max Ernst's exhibition Histoire Naturelle; Maclaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr; Monday to Saturday, 11 to 5 (ends today).

The Colman Collection of Silver Mustard Pots, Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge Street, Bath; Monday to Friday, 10 to 6, Saturday, 10 to 5 (ends Saturday).

Fishing Smacks, a Kent County Museum Service travelling exhibition, Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Monday to Friday, 10 to 5.30, Saturday, 9.30 to 5 (ends Saturday).

Sculpture's Dance; Southampton Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Southampton; Tuesday to Friday, 10 to 5, *Saturday, 10 to 4 (ends Saturday).*

Exhibitions in progress

The Artist at War: an exhibition to coincide with the publication by the Imperial War Museum/Tate Gallery of *the War Artist*; Glasgow Museum & Art Gallery, Kelvingrove, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan).

Textile Designs and Drawings by Janet Hunter, Atkinson Gallery, Lord Street, Southport; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Thurs and Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun (ends Jan 14).

Image – last of a series of three exhibitions sponsored by the Arts Council, Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield; Mon to Sat 10 to 8, *Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 29).*

Master Pieces: furniture from paintings; and drawings, painting and sculpture by Leonard McComb, Museum of Modern Art, 30, Pembroke Street, Oxford; Tues to Sat, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 15).

Paintings by David Wiseman; City Museum and Art Gallery, Priestgate, Peterborough; Tues to Sat 12 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (ends Jan 7).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,321

ACROSS

1 Disinclined to confirm the directions (6).
4 Ruby port in Holland (8).
10 African dromedary carrying Ethiopian woman (9).
11 This typist has things taped (5).
12 He is always free for a game (7).
13 It is forbidden to be sick here in French square (7).
14 Subject to the outside measurement (5).
15 This beats tossing penny to decide which way to go (8).
18 Dog going around in a pram (8).
20 Sliced melon fruit (5).
23 Sponge Island (7).
25 "Then — the action of the tiger" (*Hen. V*) (7).
26 Venus de Milo's dream, perhaps, to be this (5).
27 Girl escapes from heartburn by the taking of nourishment (9).
28 The heavy element make nuclear gun test (8).
29 Charles's sea-dog (6).

DOWN

1 Tom falls off the raft on the unending flower (8).
2 Most of the men have gone by this stage of the match (3-4).
3 Area where there should be no signs of inflammation (9).
5 Are they used for conducting principal violinists? (7-7).
6 Tangle with bared teeth (5).
7 Exponents of power (7).
8 Cave! Grey motor cycle! (6).
9 Exhibiting a likeness for a kind of government (14).
16 Straw bed for brother donkey, we hear (9).
17 Feelers put out by the fly (8).
19 Perhaps bad old boys have no stomach for this (7).
21 Import poor sort of gin (7).
22 Pass on the section after the first motorway roundabout (6).
24 River of the 'Arijans, for instance? (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,320

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

Old Father Time

Inquirers for details of beacons, firework displays and torchlight processions organized for their areas to welcome the New Year, under the English Tourist Board's "Old Father Time" project, are now being referred to: 061 833 9524.

Sales guide

London and provincial sales. Starting dates include:
Today: Sanderson, Berners Street; John Lewis, Oxford Street and Brent Cross; Heal's.
Tomorrow: Peter Jones, Sloane Square; C & A Stores (all branches); Jones Bros; Pratts of Streatham.

Preventing handicap

A new booklet produced by the Spastics Society, *Healthy Mother, Healthy Baby*, is aimed at creating greater public awareness in preventing handicap at birth. It covers such dangers as smoking, alcohol and rubella (german measles) and apart from medical hints, there is information on benefits, tests in Pregnancy, Medicines and Drugs, birthnotes and Work before Pregnancy. Further details from the Information Department, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. (Tel: 01-636 5020).

New look stars

Rail express services will offer a simplified tariff for Red Star and Night Star parcels from January 1 when distance charges are abolished.

From the new year, Red Star and Night Star parcels will be conveyed anywhere in the UK mainland for one price, subject to weight.

Charges for the one stop London service, which allows packages to be sent from the London terminal most convenient for the customer, and for cross-town and Isle of Wight transfers will be abolished.

For Night Star consignments, there will still be no extra charge for morning and Saturday deliveries, and the money-back guarantee for delays to Night Stare deliveries will continue.

For example, a 5kg package sent Red Star will cost £5.50 plus value-added tax (VAT). A 20kg package will cost £8.65 plus VAT.

Full details of tariffs are available from any of Red Star's 600 offices.

Historical books

The Literary Editor's selection of historical books published during the year:
A History of the Modern World, from 1917 to the 1980s, by Paul Johnson (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16,50)
Albert Prince Consort, by Robert Rhodes James (Hamish Hamilton, £12.50)
A Social History of England, by Asa Briggs, (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £11.95)
Eleni, by Nicholas Gage (Collins, £9.95)
Finest Hour, Winston S. Churchill 1939-1941, by Martin Gilbert (Heinemann, £15.95)
Marcel Proust, Selected Letters 1880-1903 (Collins, £15.95)
Peter Hall's Diaries, edited by John Goodwin (Hamish Hamilton, £12.95)
The Causes of War, by Michael Howard (Temple Smith, £10)
The Diary of Hugh Gaitskell, 1945-1956, edited by Philip M. Williams (Cape, £25)
The Wheels of Commerce, by Fernand Braudel, translated by S. Reynolds (Collins, £17.50)

PH

Anniversaries

Births: **Andrew Johnson**, 17th president of the USA, 1865-69, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1808; **William Ewart Gladstone**, Prime Minister, 1868-74, 1880-85, 1886, 1892-94, Liverpool, 1809; **Pablo Casals**, Vendrell, Spain, 1876.
Deaths: **Christina Rossetti**, poet, London, 1894; **Rainer Maria Rilke**, poet, Valmont, Switzerland, 1926.
Today is the **Feast of Saint Thomas of Canterbury**. Thomas Becket was born in London in 1118 and became archdeacon of Canterbury in 1154. Henry II appointed him Chancellor of England, an office in which he carried out the wishes of the king. He was elected Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162, but his belief in the rights and duties of the Church led to a break in his relations with Henry, and in 1163 he was forced to flee to France. A reconciliation was effected in 1170, only to last a few months. His excommunication of some bishops enraged the king to the extent of crying "who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" Four barons did so, killing Becket in his own cathedral



The papers

Commenting on South Africa's latest invasion of Angola, the **Harare Herald**, the state-controlled Zimbabwe daily, says there are parallels with Israel's invasion and annexation of Arab lands, commenting "the realization that the world will react with the same resignation to South African expeditions of destruction and murder is a source of fear for Southern Africans. By stressing that South Africa's latest action is aimed at preempting a massive Swapo guerrilla activity, they (the South Africans) are in fact saying they are protecting their interests and therefore invoking the same argument the super powers have used in invading smaller Third World countries."

The New York Times says that if Third World societies are to attain decent living standards they need fair access to world markets. Their lower labour costs, and the advantage of starting with the most modern technology, makes such countries natural steel exporters.

"What is hardly desirable, however, is for the decline of the American and European steel industries to be exacerbated by their own governments. Yet that is precisely what happens when developed nations offer subsidies to Third-World buyers of steelmaking equipment. And that is why the American Under-Secretary of Commerce, Lionel Olmer, was right to protest a proposal to offer cheap export-import bank credits for a complex that would increase South Korea's steel output by a third.

Roads

Although most major roadworks are suspended over the Christmas holiday period the AA issues a reminder that delays may be encountered at the following locations:

London and South-east: A5: British Telecom work along central reservation near the junction with Chichele Road, Cricklewood Broadway; delays likely. A12: Lane closures on London bound carriageway nr Ingatestone. A13: Single lane between Stanford-le-Hope and junction with A128, Orsett, Essex; congestion at peak periods.

Midlands: A10: Traffic signals at Littleport. A10: Traffic signals on Cambridge to Royston road at Hauxton. A446: Roadworks at junction with A4091 at Moxhull Island, nr Meriden.

Wales and the West: A38: Traffic restrictions, West Street, Bedminster, Bristol. M5: Lane closures between junction 8 and 9 north and southbound carriageway. A38: Single lane traffic along Saltash-Liskeard/Liskeard Menheniot by-pass.

North: A66: Roadworks and lights on North Bitts to Greta Bridge, co Durham road; traffic lights. A1: Two-way traffic on one carriageway between Fairburn and Micklefield, West Yorkshire. A6110: Roadworks alongside existing carriageway, Leeds Southern ring road; delays.

Scotland: A94: Single lane traffic near Glamis; lights. A759: Traffic reduced to single lane and controlled by traffic lights 24 hours a day, in Dundonld road, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire. A726: Lane closures at junction 29 (M8); delays likely.

Information supplied by AA.

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.67	1.57
Austria Sch	29.00	27.40
Belgium Fr	84.25	80.25
Canada $	1.84	1.77
Denmark Kr	14.82	14.12
Finland Mkk	8.73	8.33
France Fr	12.40	11.90
Germany DM	4.08	3.89
Greece Dr	164.00	152.00
Hongkong $	11.40	10.80
Ireland Pt	1.31	1.26
Italy Lira	2485.00	2365.00
Japan Yen	350.00	332.00
Netherlands Gld	4.60	4.37
Norway Kr	11.58	10.98
Portugal Esc	198.00	187.00
South Africa Rd	1.82	1.69

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 341.9.

London: The *FT* Index closed 0.6 up at 775.6.

Weather forecast

A vigorous trough will move from the Atlantic across Northern areas. A mild, westerly flow will persist in S.

6 am to midnight

London, E Anglia, W Midlands, E England: Cloudy, some rain or drizzle, becoming drier, brighter; wind SW, light or moderate; max temp 10C (50F).

SE, central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S, N Wales: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain or drizzle in places; wind SW, moderate or fresh veering westerly, light; max temp 12C (54F).

NW England, central N. England: Cloudy, some rain or drizzle, becoming drier, brighter for a time, wind SW, moderate; max temp 10C (50F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, some showers, any fog dispersing, more persistent rain, heavy in places from W later; wind W, light increasing fresh or strong; max temp 8C (46F), some frost at first.

Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, showers, wintry on hills, more persistent rain for a time, heavy in places; wind W, moderate or fresh, increasing strong perhaps gale in exposed places later; max temp 6C (43F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Cloud and rain in N will move S followed by colder, brighter, showery weather but becoming milder with rain in N later.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind SW moderate; sea slight. St Georges Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S to SW, moderate or fresh, sea moderate.

Sun rises: 8.06 am	Sun sets: 3.59 pm
Moon rises: 2.48 am	Moon sets: 1.07 pm

New Moon: January 3.

Lighting-up time

London 4.29 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.39 pm to 7.46 am
Edinburgh 4.15 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.26 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.57 pm to 7.51 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

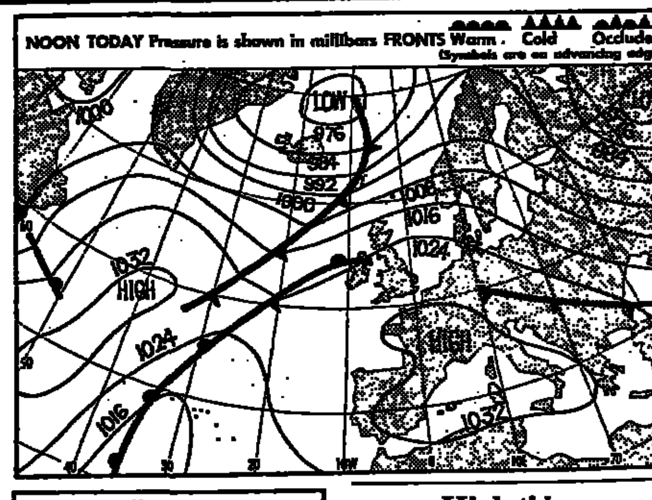
		C	F			C	F
Belfast	r	10	50	Guernsey	c	10	50
Birmingham	c	12	54	Inverness	s	7	45
Blackpool	c	10	50	Jersey	c	9	48
Bristol	c	10	50	London	c	12	54
Cardiff	c	10	50	Manchester	c	12	54
Edinburgh	c	9	48	Newcastle	c	13	55
Glasgow	c	9	48	Ronaldsway	c	12	54

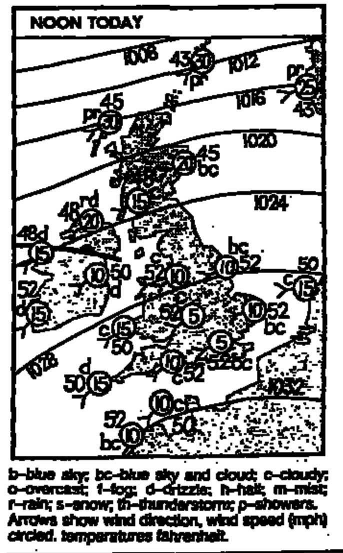
Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Tynemouth 14C (57F); lowest day max: Wick 8C (43F); highest rainfall: Orsay on Islay 0.43in; highest sunshine: Exmouth 6.0hr.

London

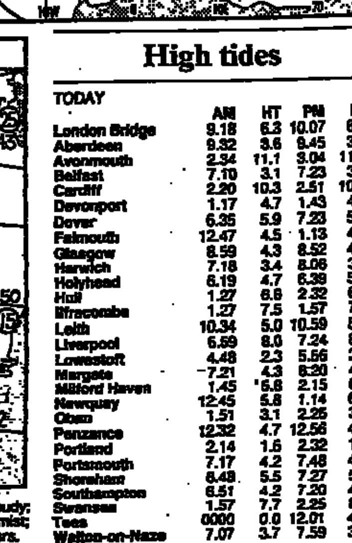
Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 11C (52F). Humidity: 6 pm, 78 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 1.2hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1032.9 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars=29.53in.





b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; f–fog; d–drizzle; h–hail; m–mist; r–rain; s–snow; th–thunderstorms; p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled. temperatures fahrenheit.

High tides

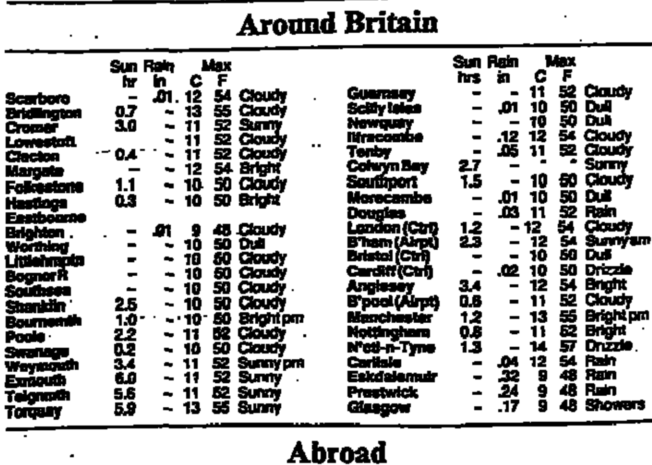


TODAY

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	9.18	6.3	10.07	6.5
Aberdeen	9.32	3.6	9.45	3.8
Avonmouth	2.34	11.1	3.04	11.4
Belfast	7.10	3.1	7.23	3.4
Cardiff	2.20	10.3	2.51	10.5
Devonport	1.17	4.7	1.43	4.8
Dover	6.35	5.9	7.23	5.7
Falmouth	12.47	4.5	1.13	4.6
Glasgow	8.59	4.3	8.52	4.4
Harwich	7.18	3.4	8.06	3.5
Holyhead	6.19	4.7	6.39	5.0
Hull	1.27	6.8	2.32	6.4
Ilfracombe	1.27	7.5	1.57	7.8
Leith	10.34	5.0	10.59	5.1
Liverpool	6.59	8.0	7.24	8.2
Lowestoft	4.48	2.3	5.56	2.2
Margate	7.21	4.3	8.20	4.2
Milford Haven	1.45	6.8	2.15	6.0
Newquay	12.45	5.8	1.14	6.0
Oban	1.51	3.1	2.25	3.4
Penzance	12.32	4.7	12.56	4.8
Portland	2.14	1.6	2.32	1.7
Portsmouth	7.17	4.2	7.48	4.0
Shoreham	6.48	5.5	7.27	5.2
Southampton	6.51	4.2	7.20	4.0
Swansea	1.57	7.7	2.25	8.0
Tees	0000	0.0	12.01	4.6
Walton-on-Naze	7.07	3.7	7.59	3.7

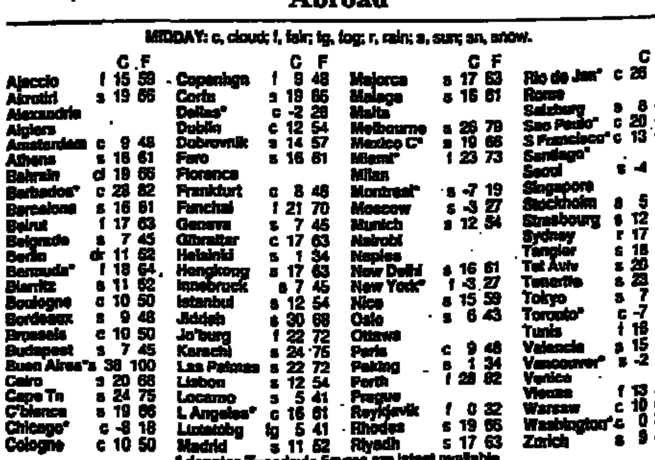
Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain



	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	–	.01	12	54	Cloudy	Guernsey	–	–	11	52	Cloudy
Bridlington	0.7	–	13	55	Cloudy	Scilly Isles	–	.01	10	50	Dull
Cromer	3.0	–	11	52	Sunny	Newquay	–	–	10	50	Dull
Lowestoft		–	11	52	Cloudy	Ilfracombe	–	.12	12	54	Cloudy
Clacton	0.4	–	11	52	Cloudy	Tenby	–	.05	11	52	Cloudy
Margate	—	–	12	54	Bright	Colwyn Bay	2.7	–	-	*	Sunny
Folkestone	1.1	–	10	50	Cloudy	Southport	1.5	–	10	50	Cloudy
Hastings	0.3	–	10	50	Bright	Morecambe	–	.01	10	50	Dull
Eastbourne						Douglas	–	.03	11	52	Rain
Brighton	–	.01	9	48	Cloudy	London (Ctrl)	1.2	–	12	54	Cloudy
Worthing	–	–	10	50	Dull	B'ham (Airpt)	2.3	–	12	54	Sunny am
Littlehmptn	–	–	10	50	Cloudy	Bristol (Ctrl)	–	–	10	50	Dull
Bognor R	–	–	10	50	Cloudy	Cardiff (Ctrl)	–	.02	10	50	Drizzle
Southsea	–	–	10	50	Cloudy	Anglesey	3.4	–	12	54	Bright
Shanklin	2.5	–	10	50	Cloudy	B'pool (Airpt)	0.8	–	11	52	Cloudy
Bournemth	1.0	–	10	50	Bright pm	Manchester	1.2	–	13	55	Bright pm
Poole	2.2	–	11	52	Cloudy	Nottingham	0.8	–	11	52	Bright
Swanage	0.2	–	10	50	Cloudy	N'cstl-n-Tyne	1.3	–	14	57	Drizzle
Weymouth	3.4	–	11	52	Sunny pm	Carlisle	–	.04	12	54	Rain
Exmouth	6.0	–	11	52	Sunny	Eskdalemuir	–	.32	9	48	Rain
Teignmth	5.6	–	11	52	Sunny	Prestwick	–	.24	9	48	Rain
Torquay	5.9	–	13	55	Sunny	Glasgow	–	.17	9	48	Showers

Abroad



MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	f	15	59	Copenhgn	f	9	48	Majorca	s	17	63	Rio de Jan*	c	26	79
Akrotiri	s	19	66	Corfu	s	19	66	Malaga	s	16	61	Rome			
Alexandria				Dallas*	c	-2	28	Malta				Salzburg	s	8	46
Algiers				Dublin	c	12	54	Melbourne	s	26	79	Sao Paulo*	c	20	68
Amsterdam	c	9	48	Dubrovnik	s	14	57	Mexico C*	s	19	66	S Francisco*	c	13	55
Athens	s	16	61	Faro	s	16	61	Miami*	f	23	73	Santiago*			
Bahrain	d	19	66	Florence				Milan				Seoul	s	-4	25
Barbados*	c	28	82	Frankfurt	c	8	46	Montreal*	s	-7	19	Singapore			
Barcelona	s	16	61	Funchal	f	21	70	Moscow	s	-3	27	Stockholm	s	5	41
Beirut	f	17	63	Geneva	s	7	45	Munich	s	12	54	Strasbourg	s	12	54
Belgrade	s	7	45	Gibraltar	c	17	63	Nairobi				Sydney	r	17	63
Berlin	dr	11	52	Helsinki	s	1	34	Naples				Tangier	s	18	64
Bermuda*	f	18	64	Hongkong	s	17	63	New Delhi	s	16	61	Tel Aviv	s	20	68
Biarritz	s	11	52	Innsbruck	s	7	45	New York*	f	-3	27	Tenerife	s	23	73
Boulogne	c	10	50	Istanbul	s	12	54	Nice	s	15	59	Tokyo	s	7	45
Bordeaux	s	9	48	Jiddah	s	30	86	Oslo	s	6	43	Toronto*	c	-7	19
Brussels	c	10	50	Jo'burg	f	22	72	Ottawa				Tunis	f	16	61
Budapest	s	7	45	Karachi	s	24	75	Paris	c	9	48	Valencia	s	15	59
Buen Aires*	s	38	100	Las Palmas	s	22	72	Peking	s	1	34	Vancouver*	s	-2	28
Cairo	s	20	68	Lisbon	s	12	54	Perth	f	28	82	Venice			
Cape Tn	s	24	75	Locarno	s	5	41	Prague				Vienna	f	13	55
C'blanca	s	19	66	L Angeles*	c	16	61	Reykjavik	f	0	32	Warsaw	c	10	50
Chicago*	c	-8	18	Luxembg	fg	5	41	Rhodes	s	19	66	Washington*	c	0	32
Cologne	c	10	50	Madrid	s	11	52	Riyadh	s	17	63	Zurich	s	9	48

* denotes Tuesday's figures are latest available

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